

THE  
MODERN  
MINIATURE.

A NOVEL.

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VOL. II.

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CHAP. I.

THE father and mother of young Mr. Groves (whose history I promised my reader in the last chapter of the first volume) died when he was of the age of five years, and left him to the care of an uncle, with whom he resided. This gentleman was an attorney, and having no children of his own, was extremely fond of his nephew. When he was at a

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proper

proper age he sent him to Eton, where, after a few years spent at that school, he was removed to the University of Oxford, to complete his studies, being designed for the church. Here, like all young men, he began to enlarge his acquaintance, and his expences. His uncle, who held it as a maxim that the first follies of youth were rather the effects of a juvenile disposition than a vicious one, never repined at his frequent demands, though, at that time, they far exceeded the income of his paternal estate, which was but five hundred pounds a year, but took, as he imagined, the surest method of reclaiming him.—After three years residence there, he returned to his uncle; but, as he had taken several stolen trips to London, while at College, and sily sipped of the gaieties that place afforded, he longed impatiently to revel in them without restraint. Several of his associates, who left College at the same time, had visited, and invited him to pass the winter



winter with them in London. His uncle, who read his most inward thoughts, could not help being uneasy at his roving disposition, took not the least notice of it to his nephew; but taking him aside, he made him a present of four fifty pound bank notes, telling him, he hoped that sum would defray his expences for the four months he was to spend there; observing, at the same time, his estate would always support him as a country gentleman, but not as a man of fashion in town. Jack listened to all his precepts with great attention, and promised strictly to observe them, and, in a few days, set off with Sir Harry Wild, a young Baronet, of small fortune, who had been one of his cotemporaries, and just come of age, and who had passed a few weeks with him at his uncle's. They arrived in London at the house of Sir Harry, who, having finally settled with his guardians, was left in full possession of every thing. They now launched out into all the ex-

travagance and dissipation of the metropolis ; and as they both were great admirers of the ladies, balls and routs were given in turns by our young gentlemen. Groves soon found his uncle's allowance too short for his expences ; but being ashamed of writing for more to supply his extravagance, had recourse to a well-known advertising money lender, who supplied them, on their joint notes, at the *easy rate* of five and twenty per cent. Jack was now introduced to a set of *Bucks*, who, having long had an eye upon Sir Harry, found the small fortune of Groves no undesirable acquisition—Thus four months had imperceptibly slipped away, when Jack wrote to his uncle to beg his permission for two months longer. In the midst of all these follies, Groves, who had a susceptible heart, would shed a tear of pity, and never missed an opportunity of alleviating the miseries of the distressed, whom poverty had obliged to solicit his benevolence. But this heavenly



venly disposition was laughed at by his companions, and a sympathizing look was deemed highly ridiculous by the fools of fashion. Indeed, he had no time left to indulge, or practise laudable ideas, as Sir Harry was constantly at his elbow :—he was a child of folly, entirely devoted to plays, balls, and places of public amusement ; but as these have their pleasures only while they are new, sometimes, to pass the night, which would otherwise hung heavy on his hands, he took his seat at the gaming-table. To all these meetings Groves was introduced ; his time was spent in a continual round of what they call *diversion*. If ever a solid look or thought escaped him, he was immediately laughed out of it, and the appellation of a whining, canting parson bestowed on him. His uncle, who often wrote, could scarcely obtain an answer to his affectionate letters ; and when he did, with such a coldness and stupidity, so different from his former,



that they plainly shewed his nephew was in a continual state of inebriation, or he did not regard him, as he formerly had done, "as a parent." Six months never passed so slowly with the uncle, nor so quickly with the nephew;—he longed for the return of his boy, while the other as constantly reprov'd time for flying so fast, that would bring him to an interview with his uncle: not that his affection was in the least diminished for the good old man, but, conscious of his own irregularities, guilt made him dread his reproaches.—After many schemes to avoid returning, (all of them as wild as impracticable) it was at last agreed to *face* the old gentleman, (*as Sir Harry termed him*) and he would accompany him; and as a few months would bring Groves of age, they would return to town together. This agreed upon, they set off for the country, when the sight of the nephew re-animat'd the old gentleman: all his faults, all his negligence of answering

answering his letters were instantly forgot—his return was sufficient to absolve them.—Time passed heavily on the hands of the two friends—the rural ball was called a stupid thing, and the country ladies compared to a set of milk-maids by Sir Harry. The uncle saw all this with a heavy heart, and studied amusements to divert his guests ; for, in reality, he began to look upon his nephew in no other light ; but all was in vain. At last the wish'd-for day arrived when our hero completed his one and twentieth year, and the fond uncle, willing to celebrate the birth-day of his darling, sent invitations to all the neighbouring gentry. The day was spent with the greatest hilarity, and concluded with a grand ball. Here he first saw and danced with Fanny, though, at that time, he paid but little regard to her charms ; yet, after the company retired, he declared to his uncle she was the prettiest woman he had ever seen. After a week he set off again with

Sir Harry for London, promising to return as soon as the winter was over. Admonitions were not spared by the uncle, nor promises to observe them by the nephew, but how well he performed them will be seen in the following sheets.

After spending the time allotted in dissipation, they removed with the fashionable part of the town to a watering-place. Here they became acquainted with a set of sharpers, who frequent those places with no other view than to draw the unwary to ruin. Sir Harry was the first that fell a sacrifice; for, after a few nights success, he not only lost all the money he had won, but three parts of his own fortune, which was but one thousand pounds a year; and Groves, after settling his accounts, found himself in possession of three hundred pounds a year instead of five. Tired of a place where they had met with such ill success, they returned to London. A thousand schemes were planned on the road to regain the fortune

fortune they had squandered, and, after a few days deliberation, they rashly resolved to hazard their all on the die. With this view they frequented the most notorious gaming-houses, and, for a few weeks, met with such success as flattered their most sanguine wishes. But various are the changes of Fortune, especially that of gamesters ; for while they are exulting in prosperity, the fickle Goddess turns her wheel, and reverses all she has done, leaving her deluded votaries immersed in sorrow and poverty.

But I must beg pardon for this digression, and proceed to the situation these *heroes* found themselves in :—their estates mortgaged, without the smallest hopes of retrieving them ; unable to pay the debts they had contracted ; and the house surrounded by bailiffs.—Reflection now came, attended by horror, at the retrospect of their actions. Groves execrated the day and hour that he left his uncle's peaceful abode ; Sir Harry felt more for



his friend's ill fortune than his own ; at last he came to a resolution of letting his uncle know his misconduct, and imploring his forgiveness ; but the moment he took up his pen, guilt made him lay it down.—“ What an unworthy wretch am I ! ” exclaimed he, “ to flatter myself with forgiveness from the man whose goodness I have so shamefully abused ! After my cruel neglect to my second father, can I sit down and solicit that pardon I can never deserve ? No ! I am a wretch unworthy his notice—I will implore his forgiveness, indeed, but he shall not know the errors I have been guilty of ; nor shall prisons, or all the tortures that human butchers can invent, ever ”——In this manner was he raving when Sir Harry entered ; and finding Groves could never reconcile it to himself to let his uncle know his situation, after soothing him as much as lay in his power, told him, that he had just recollected that the Duke of Y——, who  
had

had expressed a great friendship for him, and once offered him his purse when they belonged to the same club, and were playing, though, at the same time, he declined accepting it, as he had found his pocket-book, which he thought was left at home in his coat pocket, and which contained the sum he wanted.

A ray of hope shot across the minds of these young friends, who were not sufficiently versed in the arts of the world, to suppose that, before this offer was made, his Grace was well assured it would be refused. They could not entertain an idea of false friendship. At last it was agreed that Sir Harry should wait on his Grace, and request the loan of five hundred pounds, which he would remit to him as soon as he arrived in India, where his mother's brother, who was very rich, had resided many years, and, as he was a bachelor, he had kept a constant correspondence with him; and if his Grace would so far oblige him, that sum would

be more than sufficient to defray the expences of his voyage; the overplus he would present to Groves, who should stay in some retired lodgings till he could make it convenient to send for him, or remit him money to redeem part of his estate.

The next morning was assigned for the visit to his Grace; but how to get out of the house was to be considered, as it was impossible to venture out at the street door, which was continually beset by bailiffs, who relieved each other like centinels, night and day; and as he could not go on the day following, it was deferred till the Sunday, when they would be at liberty to leave the house, to which they resolved never to return. Their time was employed in packing up their cloaths, and what few valuables they had left, which, by the help of a trusty servant, were conveyed over the wall into a house adjoining, and left in the care of an old woman, that kept it while the family

mily were out of town. The furniture was next to be disposed of, which, as there was little rent due, the overplus after the sale, with what his Grace would accommodate them with, (for they were perfectly assured in their own minds of not meeting with a denial) would enable Sir Harry to provide every thing necessary for his voyage, and leave his friend in easy circumstances. A broker came at night, who purchased the furniture, and every thing was disposed of by the servant, who was dispatched to provide lodgings for our *heroes*, who were to pass as brothers, under the borrowed name of Mackworth.

Early the next morning the servant brought Sir Harry a letter from his uncle, expressing a desire to see his nephew before he died: “ I am very old,” said he, “ in the postscript, and my infirmities “ render me unable to return to my native country, and as you are my sole “ heir, I think it necessary to tell you, that



“ that you should be with me, and if you  
 “ can attach yourself from the plea-  
 “ sures of London, and confine yourself  
 “ to an old man, who is near the brink  
 “ of his grave, I shall be happy in your  
 “ company.”

This was chiefly the purport of his uncle's letter.—Sir Harry was almost frantic with joy, as he was now assured of a cordial reception from him, and an additional happiness accrued from the thoughts of being able to provide for his friend.

Late at night, or early in the morning, a coach was prepared for our *heroes*, who cautiously stole down the street, and was drove to their new habitation, where they found the landlady waiting for them, as she had been informed by their servant, his masters would not be at their lodgings till twelve o'clock, as the stage would not arrive from York till near that time, and they would sup at the inn they put up at. This account satisfied her, who liked the appearance

appearance of her new lodgers, and they were well pleased with their situation, which, though not grand, was genteel. Their apartments consisted of two bed-chambers, and a neat drawing-room, that looked into Hyde Park.

Sunday morning Sir Harry dressed himself to pay his visit to his Grace, and, as he was no stranger, he was admitted on his name being announced. He found him ready for church ; and, after the usual compliments, Sir Harry let his Grace know the cause of his visit at that time, and in the most artless manner told his situation, not omitting his friend's, and accusing himself as being the cause of his misfortunes.

The countenance of this *great man* in a minute contracted into a sullen gloominess, and, after a solemn pause, he replied,—“ *Really*, Sir Harry, I am exceedingly sorry for your misfortunes,  
 “ as it is really not in my power to assist  
 “ you at present, not having ten pounds  
 “ in

“ in the house, and I have lately lost  
 “ such immense sums at play, that a  
 “ friend of mine has extorted a promise  
 “ from me not to draw upon my banker  
 “ for a month to come, and I have  
 “ given him *my honour* I will not.”—  
 “ ’Tis lucky your uncle has sent for you,  
 “ and I would advise you to go as quick-  
 “ ly as you can, and I sincerely wish  
 “ you happiness, and a good voyage.”  
 Sir Harry, petrified at the refusal, and the  
 mean evasion of the Duke, stood for  
 some minutes unable to answer him,  
 at length, getting the better of his  
 confusion, replied, “ I sufficiently  
 “ humiliated myself when I requested  
 “ your Grace to furnish me with the  
 “ trifle. At present, my situation ren-  
 “ ders it impossible to resent the insult ;  
 “ your Grace has presumed on that : but  
 “ depend upon it, a time will come, and  
 “ I shall not let an opportunity slip.”

His Grace took no notice of this  
 answer, but ringing the bell, ordered his  
 carriage,

carriage, and hastily quitted the room; Sir Harry followed him down stairs, and flinging himself into the hackney-coach, bid the man drive from whence he came. When he entered, disappointment and despair were pictured in his countenance; he tried to assume a cheerfulness that was foreign to his heart, but his forced smiles only served to shew his chagrin, while Groves, who perceived it, was afraid to inquire the cause. At last Sir Harry stammered out, “I have been refused!”—“I thought so,” answered the other.—“Yes, and in a mortifying manner,” continued he.

He then recounted the behaviour of the *noble Duke*. The servant, who was no stranger to his master’s affairs, at the conclusion of his description, burst into a loud laugh. “What do you laugh at, rascal?” cried Groves.—“Oh, Lord! Sir, I beg your pardon, but indeed I cannot help laughing at your honour’s thinking his Grace would lend you  
“ money;



“ money ; Lord, Sir, if you had only  
 “ asked me, I wou’d have told you how  
 “ to have got the money you wanted  
 “ from his Grace, and he wou’d have  
 “ been obliged to you, instead of you,  
 “ Sir, being obliged to him.”

Sir Harry, who could not forbear  
 smiling at the fellow’s oddity, requested to  
 know how one man could think of being  
 obliged to another for borrowing his  
 money. “ Oh, Lord ! Sir,” cried the  
 servant, “ I am sorry you are such a  
 “ stranger to the world not to know  
 “ *there are more ways than one* of doing  
 “ things ; but, however, Sir, I will tell  
 “ you how an old master of mine ma-  
 “ naged before he was a great man as  
 “ he now is ; when I lived with him, his  
 “ father allowed him only three hundred  
 “ pounds a year, and that, Sir, is  
 “ but a very little for a gentleman ; but  
 “ as my master was brought up to the  
 “ law, old square-toes said he must fol-  
 “ low his profession, and if he wanted  
 “ more he must earn it. This did not  
 “ suit

“suit my master at all ; he said the law  
 “was a dry study, and I often thought  
 “it was a hungry one, for we liv’d but  
 “so so ; well, my master lov’d his bot-  
 “tle, and, as he was troubled with a  
 “*shake in the elbow*, our three hundred  
 “pounds a year was gone in one quar-  
 “ter. At first, my master was much  
 “distressed, and wrote to his father to  
 “advance a little more money, but the  
 “old man had not one spark of gene-  
 “rosity ; he wrote him a very angry let-  
 “ter, and told him, he was an extrava-  
 “gant young dog, and if he had been  
 “near him he would have broken his  
 “head with one of his crutches. My  
 “master was in a kind of a *stagnation*  
 “when he received this impudent  
 “letter.”—“Impudent, did you call  
 “it ?” interrupted Sir Harry.—“Yes,  
 “Sir,” replied Will, “impudent, I call  
 “it so for one man to write another  
 “word he would break his head with a  
 “crutch.”—“But it was his father,  
 “Will.”

“ Will.”—“ Well, Sir, and what of  
 “ that, was not his son a man, and ought  
 “ he not to have treated him with better  
 “ manners ?”—“ Go on with your story,”  
 replied Sir Harry.—“ Sir, my master  
 “ was much distressed at the letter he  
 “ received from his father, he sat in his  
 “ chair like one stupid : Lord ! Sir, said  
 “ I, what signifies being so down-heart-  
 “ ed, ar’n’t you a lawyer ? you can’t be  
 “ arrested, run in debt, and let them wait  
 “ till old square-toes is dead. Well, my  
 “ master said, I was a clever dog, and  
 “ he would take my advice, and after  
 “ some debate, it was agreed, that my  
 “ master should have an old aunt, that  
 “ was dead somewhere in the Highlands  
 “ of Scotland, and that she had left him  
 “ two thousand pounds a year, but some  
 “ fellow, who was a distant relation, and  
 “ had more money than wit, had gone  
 “ to law to recover a part that he pre-  
 “ tended he had a right to, and that  
 “ kept my master from receiving the  
 “ rents

“ rents due to him, but it would soon be  
 “ settled. This story I told among the  
 “ tradesmen, and to give it an air of  
 “ truth, I paid three shillings and six-  
 “ pence for inserting it in the public pa-  
 “ pers, which, to the best of my memory,  
 “ I wrote in the following words: *Last*  
 “ *Saturday died suddenly at Inverness, Mrs.*  
 “ *Elizabeth Grey, relict of — Grey,*  
 “ *Esquire, possessed of an immense fortune,*  
 “ *which devolves to her nephew, a young*  
 “ *gentleman in the Temple.* You must  
 “ know, Sir, we did not chuse to men-  
 “ tion my master’s name, for fear of old  
 “ square-toes; but, whenever any of  
 “ the tradesmen began to look shy upon  
 “ us, I always pulled out the newspaper  
 “ and shewed them the advertisement;  
 “ my story was believed, and credit was  
 “ not denied us as formerly, and we lived  
 “ like nabobs. Half a year glided on  
 “ in this manner, and a merrier I never  
 “ spent in all my life: but at the expi-  
 “ ration of that time, they sent in their  
 “ bills,



“ bills, and stopped our mirth ; but that  
 “ was only for a little time, as my master  
 “ had, in a few nights, such a run of  
 “ good luck at play, that he was able to  
 “ pay them all, even his *taylor*. He  
 “ now began to know the world a little,  
 “ and found by experience, to *be poor*,  
 “ *and seem poor*, was *the Devil all over*.  
 “ He boasted of *his aunt's* fortune  
 “ wherever he went ; upon the strength  
 “ of that, I assure you, Sir, he was re-  
 “ ceived into the most fashionable com-  
 “ panies, for the present times are not  
 “ like the former, the world is so chari-  
 “ table, that it is no matter who or  
 “ what you are, so that you are not  
 “ *poor* ; and a *gambler* in his carriage,  
 “ is caress'd, whilst honesty is left to  
 “ trudge without being noticed. Well,  
 “ my master was received into the best  
 “ families, and as he was good-natured,  
 “ and always of the opinion (especially  
 “ in politics) that the ladies were of, he  
 “ found strong advocates in them, for  
 “ they

“ they would not hear any thing that  
 “ might tend to his prejudice. When  
 “ he was poor, he was always richest,  
 “ it was then he always boasted most ;  
 “ sometimes he would fall into play and  
 “ lose a sum of money, when, to his  
 “ great mortification, his careless dog of  
 “ a servant had forgot to give him his  
 “ purse when he dressed for dinner.  
 “ Immediately a lord, or some great  
 “ man whispered in his ear, that he was  
 “ always *welcome to the sum he wanted,*  
 “ and he knew better than to refuse it,  
 “ while they were obliged to him for  
 “ accepting it, as they always looked  
 “ on him as a man of great fortune, and  
 “ in *no need of it.* But some how or  
 “ other, some busy devil informed old  
 “ square-toes what his son was doing in  
 “ town ; I verily believe it frightened  
 “ the old man’s gout away, for he fell  
 “ into such a rage, that he threw his  
 “ flannels behind the fire, and sent his  
 “ crutches after them, and mounting his  
 “ horse,

“ horse, which he had not ventured to  
 “ do for seven years before, set off for  
 “ London. Whether passion or exer-  
 “ cise got the better of his gout, I don’t  
 “ know, but unluckily for us, he found  
 “ himself so much better after his first  
 “ day’s journey, that he ventured on the  
 “ second, third, and so on, till he arrived  
 “ safe : as soon as he alighted, he  
 “ hastened to the Temple, and upon  
 “ inquiry, found his son had moved  
 “ near three months, and *nobody* knew  
 “ where he was gone ; after a fruitless  
 “ search all the afternoon about the  
 “ neighbourhood, he returned to the  
 “ inn, and as he was telling his  
 “ landlady of his disappointment,”  
 “ — “ I don’t think,” answered  
 she, “ you inquired right ; but our  
 “ ostler will go for six-pence, and I’ll  
 “ be bound for it, he will find him out  
 “ if he has liv’d there within these two  
 “ or three years.” — “ Old square-toes  
 “ promised to give the fellow half-a-  
 “ crown

“ crown if he brought intelligence of his  
 “ lost *sheep*. The rascal set off, and,  
 “ after staying till near twelve o’clock,  
 “ he brought home directions from the  
 “ hair-dresser, that Mr. Clay had taken  
 “ a ready-furnished house in Albemarle  
 “ Street, and kept a carriage.—‘ A  
 “ carriage,’ cried the old fellow, ‘ aye,  
 “ I suppose a stage coach.’—‘ Oh ! no,  
 “ Sir,’ replied the ostler, ‘ I am sure it  
 “ was not, for one of the gentleman’s  
 “ footmen came in while I was at the  
 “ hair dresser’s and he gave me his  
 “ master’s address, as they did not  
 “ rightly know where he lived.’—‘ One  
 “ of his footmen ! pray how many does  
 “ the gentleman keep?’—‘ I can’t tell,’  
 “ answered the ostler.—‘ Aye, aye, no  
 “ matter, I’ll spoil his sport for him to-  
 “ morrow.’ It was too true, I assure  
 “ you, Sir, for never shall I forget the  
 “ day ; as old Nick would have it, my  
 “ master had given an entertainment to  
 “ some particular friends, when his father

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“ came to find him out. The company  
 “ had just finished their dinner, and  
 “ were enjoying the bottle, when a loud  
 “ single rap at the door, announced,  
 “ as I thought, *a dun* : it was my place  
 “ to answer those kind of gentry, but,  
 “ as I had just din’d, and had my bottle  
 “ of red port before me, for you are to  
 “ observe, Sir, we did not live then  
 “ as when we were in chambers, I did  
 “ not chuse to disturb myself for such  
 “ a *fellow*, so I sent the other footman,  
 “ as he knew his master was *out of town*,  
 “ &c. He had not opened the door two  
 “ minutes, when my ears were assail’d  
 “ with a hoarse bawling voice, of ‘ *you’re*  
 “ *a lying rascal, and an impudent scoundrel*;  
 “ he is at home, and I will see him.’  
 “ I rose hastily, and ran up stairs to  
 “ see what was the matter, when I found  
 “ the servant struggling with an old  
 “ man, in a thickset great-coat, round  
 “ hat, worsted stockings, and a red silk  
 “ handkerchief round his neck ; in short,  
 “ he

“ he had the appearance of a country  
 “ farmer.—‘ What does the *fellow*  
 “ want ? said I.’—‘ Why, you imper-  
 “ tinent puppy,’ he returned, ‘ I want  
 “ to see your scoundrel of a master.’—  
 “ Push the man out of doors, he is mad.  
 “ My master see *such a fellow as you*,  
 “ truly !’ said I ; so without any more to  
 “ do, he sent his crab stick at my head,  
 “ but, happening to throw it a little too  
 “ high, it hit the lamp that hung in  
 “ the hall, and broke it into ten thou-  
 “ sand pieces ; the noise it made alarm-  
 “ ed my master and his company ; he  
 “ rose from the table, and peeping over  
 “ the bannisters, saw his father, and I  
 “ am sure, not with less horror than  
 “ Hamlet when he saw his father’s ghost,  
 “ especially when he heard him swear,  
 “ he wou’d not quit the house till he  
 “ had seen him.’—‘ Well, Sir,’ said I,  
 “ give me your name, and call in about  
 “ an hour, and then my master will be  
 “ in the way.’ When old square-toes

“ found he could not get sight of his  
 “ son, ‘ Tell him,’ said he, I come from  
 “ Clay Hall, on purpose to catch him  
 “ in his pretty tricks, and if he don’t  
 “ let me see him directly, I’ll set off,  
 “ and never a shilling more shall he  
 “ receive from me while I have breath,  
 “ no, nor after my death neither; I’ll  
 “ leave my fortune to some public cha-  
 “ rity first:’ and turning upon his heel,  
 “ left the house in a rage. As soon as  
 “ he was gone, my master stepped down  
 “ stairs, and sent the other footman to  
 “ see where he went, but unluckily he  
 “ cou’d not read, and as he was just  
 “ come out of the country, and un-  
 “ acquainted with the names of the  
 “ streets, he dogg’d him at a distance  
 “ to the inn, but forgot to inquire the  
 “ name of it, and with great difficulty,  
 “ found his way back again. As my  
 “ master was up stairs making an apology  
 “ to the company for his absence, and tell-  
 “ ing the occasion, when the booby came  
 “ back,

“ back, ‘ Well,’ said I, where did you  
 “ leave him ?’—‘ Oh !’ said he, ‘ I saw  
 “ him safe out of this end of the town.’—  
 “ But what was the name of the place ?’  
 “ —I don’t know ; but it goes under a  
 “ great gateway into a yard full of hay  
 “ and straw, scattered about, and just  
 “ such another place as the waggon put  
 “ up at when I came out of the country ;  
 “ I am sure I shall know it when I see it  
 “ again.’—‘ Which way did you go to  
 “ it ?’—‘ Oh ! I can tell you that ;  
 “ when he set out he turn’d on his right  
 “ hand, and went down a long street,  
 “ then he turn’d on his left ; I followed  
 “ him there too : then he turn’d on his  
 “ right again, and went down another  
 “ long street, with a dead wall on one  
 “ side, and green trees hanging over, and  
 “ there we met one of the prettiest wo-  
 “ men I ever saw in my life. The old  
 “ man looked after her, and so did I.’—  
 “ Well, well, said I, can’t you tell me  
 “ where it is ?’—‘ Why, yes, if you will



“ let me—I left off at the pretty wo-  
 “ man, I think? Yes, so I did—I  
 “ had like to have lost him, looking at  
 “ her ; but I run as hard as I cou’d, and  
 “ overtook him turning a corner. I ran  
 “ so hard that he thought somebody was  
 “ going to run over him, so he turned  
 “ round and looked at me—wou’d you  
 “ think the cunning old fox knew me  
 “ again—‘ Why, you powder-monkey,  
 “ said he, what do you want?’--‘Nothing,  
 “ but to see where you are going to.’—  
 “ Go along, you puppy you, or I’ll lay  
 “ my stick over your shoulders ;’ and so  
 “ I was obliged to run, for he ran after  
 “ me, and swore he would murder me ;  
 “ so I said, if he did, I would follow  
 “ him. At last he burst out a laughing,  
 “ and, calling me to him, asked me if  
 “ my master wasn’t at home ; the old  
 “ man lifted up his crab-stick, and I  
 “ was afraid to tell him a lie, so I said  
 “ yes ; so he sent me back to tell him  
 “ he should not come again this even-  
 “ ing.

“ ing. Well, Sir, to make short of the  
 “ story, he did not return till the next  
 “ morning, and, though I had tied up  
 “ several bundles of parchment and pa-  
 “ pers, spreading them on tables in or-  
 “ der, on purpose to make him believe  
 “ we did a great deal of business, he  
 “ raved and stormed at my master, threa-  
 “ tening to disinherit him if he did not  
 “ give up the house immediately, and  
 “ go with him into the country. It was  
 “ in vain to argue—Old Square-Toes  
 “ was not to be contradicted—and my  
 “ master was obliged to consent. He  
 “ sent me to one of his tradesmen, and  
 “ desired him to give his servants cha-  
 “ racters; and as his quarter’s allowance  
 “ was near due, he persuaded his father  
 “ to advance it, with which he paid us  
 “ all our wages, and set off for Clay  
 “ Hill with old Square-Toes. He  
 “ begged hard for me to attend him,  
 “ but the old fellow would not suffer it:  
 “ he swore I should corrupt the whole  
 C 4 “ village.

“ village.—Well, gentlemen, my poor  
 “ master was forced into the country, as  
 “ I told you before, and his father took  
 “ such care of him, that he never let him  
 “ out of his sight for twelve months;  
 “ and, at the expiration of that time, he  
 “ sent him to the East Indies—a few  
 “ years since he returned very rich.—  
 “ This, gentlemen, is the history of Sir  
 “ John Clay—he knew the world—he  
 “ was never poor;—no, gentlemen, the  
 “ poorer he was the greater pains he  
 “ took to conceal it, and the more  
 “ friends he gained; and I dare venture  
 “ to say, if one half of them had known  
 “ the true state of his pocket, they would  
 “ have flown from him like a pestilence;  
 “ so, begging your pardon, Sir, you  
 “ should have applied to his Grace,  
 “ without letting him know your circum-  
 “ stances.”—“ We want none of your  
 “ advice, Sir,” interrupted Groves.

The servant, bowing, quitted the room.

Sir

Sir Harry blamed his friend for being so hasty, saying, he was sure he was honest, and if he gave his tongue a little more freedom than usual, they should consider their situation.



## C H A P. II.

**A**S some unfortunate persons sink into poverty their ideas rise, and the behaviour they would have laughed at, when fortune smiled, stabs them beyond description---even a smile is construed into an insult; though this may be a fault, yet it is easily forgiven by a generous mind, who can sympathize for the misfortunes of others.---Groves was of this disposition; in every familiar look he saw scorn and contempt; and it was with great difficulty that Sir Harry could persuade him to keep his temper with the poor fellow, who was much attached to him.

At the bottom of the garden was a door that led into Hyde Park, and as they were free from the fear of falling into the bailiffs' hands in that place, they often  
 1 walked

walked out for the benefit of the air.— One evening Groves had walked a little too near Park Lane, when he was surrounded by four fellows, who cried out, “ So, so, we have you at last ! Mr. “ Groves, you must go with us.”—He expostulated, telling them they could not make their caption legally, as he was in the verge of the court ; and setting his back against one of the walnut trees, pulled a pistol from his pocket, threatening to shoot the first that laid their hands upon him ; but one of them, sily stepping behind him with a stick, struck it from his hand, and the others running up caught him fast by the arms, which they attempted to tie behind him. The report of a pistol, and the noise made by Groves, soon drew a crowd of people to the spot ; but the catchpoles, with the most consummate impudence, informed them, that the person they had bound was a thief, who had attempted to rob them—shewing the pistol as a proof of

what they asserted. In vain he told his tale—not a soul would believe him, as they all declared it looked very suspicious for a man to walk there, at that time of the evening, with a loaded pistol.—They were just dragging him off, when an old gentleman, in a naval uniform, made his way through the crowd to look at the *robber*; and, after viewing the bailiffs earnestly, asked for a sight of the pistol.—“What do you want with it?” replied the fellows; “we shall produce it where it will be necessary, and not to you.”

Groves now addressed the gentleman with all the eloquence he was master of, begging him to assist an unfortunate young man beset with bailiffs, who had planned this diabolical scheme to drag him out of the verge of the court into a jail; begging him to look at the pistol, and he would find the initials J. G. with his crest, and telling him his name.—The officer insisted on their giving up the pistol.

pistol. They swore they would not let him see it, attempting to drag away their prisoner, telling him he was at liberty to follow them.—A stranger, who had been inquiring what was the matter, no sooner heard the name of Groves, than he cried out, “ He is my master ! make way ; let “ me see, he is no thief.” He broke his way through, with an impetuosity next to madness, and, laying hold of one of the bailiffs, tripped up his heels, and with a stick felled another to the ground, set his master at liberty in an instant, saying, “ This is my master, and a gentleman— “ these are bailiffs, and if you will search “ them, you will find the writ, with the “ name of John Groves in it, which is “ this gentleman’s name.”

The mob now examined them, and found the writ, when, to reward them for their very ingenious scheme, they took them to the Serpentine river, and gave them a very handsome ducking ; and had not Groves and the officer inter-  
fered,



ferred, would have disqualified them from making any captions for some time.

Groves now returned thanks to the officer, and invited him to take a bottle of wine at his apartments. The gentleman, struck with the address and figure of Groves, which was truly elegant, readily accepted the invitation. They found Sir Harry, who had not been out that afternoon, waiting with great anxiety for his friend, who had never staid out so long since they had been there. He had sent Will to look round the Park for him, as the old woman that took care of the next house to that they had formerly lived in, and who was entrusted with the secret of their abode, had taken in a letter for him, which she had put under cover, and sent by the penny post, directed to Mr. John Mackworth. Will was in search, and seeing the crowd at some distance, luckily got up time enough to rescue him ; but the bold attempt made by the bailiffs put the letter quite  
out

out of his head.—“ I am glad you are  
 “ come home,” cried Sir Harry ; “ I was  
 “ afraid some accident had happened ;—  
 “ have you had your uncle’s letter ?”—  
 “ No !” replied Groves : “ You do not  
 “ see my deliverer ; this gentleman has  
 “ help’d to rescue me from a set of raf-  
 “ cals, who accused me of attempting to  
 “ rob them.”

Here the whole story was related ; but the officer protested, with great earnestness, that he could never have extricated Mr. Groves, if Will had not fought so valiantly. Sir Harry called the gentleman his dearest and best friend, and shaking Will by the hand, declared he would never part with him as long as he had a guinea in the world. Groves, taking his letter, begged leave to retire for a few minutes. On opening it, read as follows :

“ JACK,

“ I am perfectly acquainted with your  
 “ situation, and send you the inclosed for  
 “ the present.”

This

This laconic, generous epistle, wrung the heart of Groves; his conduct appeared to him in the most despicable light: he kissed the letter, and blessed the hand that wrote it: he execrated himself; and, sitting down, fell into a kind of stupefaction.

Sir Harry, wondering at his stay, sent Will in for him. He opened the door, and seeing him very attentive on the letter, would not speak, but shut the door and went down stairs. Sir Harry made an apology to the gentleman, and stepping into the next room himself, where Groves was, he found him more like one of *Rubilliac statues* than a living man. He clapped him on the shoulder; that taking but little effect, he gently snatched the letter from him. This awoke Groves from his reverie; who cried, “Look, “my friend, at that—and tell me if I “am not a wretch?”—“Rather say it “is me,” said Sir Harry, “who has “been the sole cause of your misconduct.  
But

“ But there is a gentleman you brought home with you.”—Groves started up and followed him into the dining-room, and, apologizing for his absence, sat down for the remainder of the evening.

As wine is a revealer of secrets, and Groves rather elevated, he took out his uncle’s letter, and read it, expatiating on his own unworthiness, and declaring life was a miserable burthen to him ; and that his uncle’s goodness set every past transaction in such a despicable light, that he sunk at the retrospect.

Sir Harry, interrupting him, gave the gentleman an account of their lives, and concluded by observing, that he himself had been the cause of his friend’s misfortunes. He then proceeded to inform him what a kind invitation he had received from his mother’s brother, who was the only relation he had living ; but lamented his inability to go to the East Indies in his present situation.—“ I have landed in England but a fortnight,” said



said the gentleman, “and came from  
 “thence, where I had the command of a  
 “trading vessel on the Coromandel coast  
 “many years; if you will oblige me in  
 “telling his name, perhaps I may know  
 “him.”—“Egerton.”—“Egerton!”  
 cried the officer; “art thou the nephew  
 “of my old friend, Harry Egerton?  
 “Give me your hand, my boy; I hope  
 “you have sufficiently tasted the bitter  
 “cup of adversity, and will avoid falling  
 “into the like errors again: but you  
 “need not trouble yourself to go to the  
 “East Indies, for I attended your uncle  
 “to the grave in less than a month after  
 “he had wrote that letter you have just  
 “mentioned. He often expressed a great  
 “desire to see you before his death; but  
 “that was not to be, and he was resign-  
 “ed to Providence.”—Here he turned  
 away to hide the falling tear, that fell to  
 the memory of his departed friend.

He then informed Sir Harry, that  
 part of his uncle's property was already  
 in

in England, and that the remainder would be remitted by the next ships from Bengal. “ You have already fifty thousand pounds in England,” said he, “ and as much more may be expected.”

Their sensations at this account may be easier felt than described. They were deprived of the power of speech for some minutes.—Sir Harry, embracing Groves, cried, “ Now, my dear Jack, Fortune has for once stood my friend ; I am now enabled to make some reparation for the injuries I have done you.” Groves was equally delighted with the pleasing prospect of his friend’s affairs.—They sat conversing till late, when the Captain took his leave, promising to be early with them the next morning, and bring a copy of his friend’s will, and notes to the amount of three thousand pounds.

The first thing Sir Harry did, was to put Groves in possession of his estate ; then, paying his own debts, he accompanied

panied him to his uncle's, where, staying some months, Sir Harry fell in love with a young lady, of the name of Jennings, accomplished, though without a fortune. Immediately after the marriage he retired to his family seat in Somersetshire, where Lady Wild's engaging affability, and kind attention to the poor tenants and villagers, gained universal admiration. Her care of her young family amply repaid him, who often declared, forty or fifty thousand pounds ought to be given to every husband who marries a starched prude of thirty, or a gay coquette of nineteen, to indemnify him for the mortification of *crim. con.* in the former, and the trifling insignificance of self-love and vanity in the latter.

It was at this wedding that Fanny, who was bride's maid, stole the heart of Groves; and the frequent opportunities of meeting each other at Mr. Jennings's, before Lady Wild's departure for Somersetshire, gave the lovers time to exchange  
 hearts

hearts and vows of everlasting constancy. This courtship was unknown to 'Squire Rose till the vigilance of the Miss Greenfords discovered it to him, the result of which we have already related in the First Volume of the **MINIATURE**.

**CHAP.**



## C H A P. III.

**L**OUISA, Maria, and Miss Ellis now returned to White Hall, where they found Parson Ellis, who had come to take back his daughter, and to remind them of their promise to visit him ; when, after staying some days, and leaving tokens of his humanity, wherever he could find a proper object to apply it, he took his leave—Louisa and Maria shedding tears at the departure of their beloved companion, and they set out for their village.

Mr. Greaves this year became a magistrate for the county of ———; and as gentlemen of his description are so much wanted in that important office, too often filled by ignorant, arbitrary, low-bred people, who act more with the views of profit than justice, many of whom

whom are scarce able to write their names; and, from being *journeymen carpenters*, amass large fortunes by *shaving* poor wretches, whom drunkenness, or some trifling quarrel, draw into their merciless clutches. Of this we have a recent example, by two of these very wise men of Gotham committing a poor fellow for a *burglary* to their county gaol, because he refused to marry a girl who honoured him with the title of father to her child. He was confined till the assizes following, (nine weeks) when no guilt appearing before the grand jury, the bill was thrown out. A writ of *mandamus* was afterwards served upon them at the instance of two most respectable gentlemen, to shew cause for their proceedings, when rather than let it be heard before the Court of King's Bench, they meanly shrunk by paying all expences, and making a compensation to his much-injured character. As this is only a *Miniature*, and such justices always want to prepos-

prepossess the ignorant, that whatever they do is right, and there can be no appeal, I will acquaint my reader of their sagacious behaviour in this instance only.

Justice Wrath. "Why, hie, hie, do you mind me? won't you marry her?"

Culprit. "No, your worship, I have given security to the parish."

Justice Quibble. "Sirrah, *your dug*. "Don't you know I can hang you? I can prophesy true. I once dreamt that a man was to be hanged, and he was hanged."

Yet such reptiles creep into the good opinion of their superiors, and are fixed upon to keep the lower part of the community in awe. But these errors, it is to be hoped, will shortly be removed, and *gentlemen* only appointed to act. In this we have an example by a noble Viscount (whose philanthropy and love of justice is well known) taking out a dedimus, and disdaining to pocket the low fees of office.

Let

Let us return to the good Mr. Greaves, who now found many that were brought before him, were fitter objects for his benevolence than punishment. Numbers were rescued from poverty and ruin by his charitable hand ; and as Louisa and Maria always visited the afflicted, they found sufficient employment. Twelve months having passed, they prepared for a visit to the parsonage, when an unexpected accident put a stop to it : Mr. Greaves, who had gone to his chamber the preceding night in good health, but not appearing as usual at breakfast, Louisa ordered the servant to ask her father if he chose it in his own room ; but no answer being made to his repeated knocks, he burst open the door, and found his master dead in his bed, his countenance sweetly pleasant, his hands joined in humble supplications to the Almighty, and “ Sherlock on Death ” on his pillow. Consternation and grief seized him. He called up the butler, who had been years



in the family, informed him of the melancholy event, and, drawing back the curtains, shewed him the body of his deceased master. The old man stood aghast at his pale corpse, till a flood of tears rolled down his aged cheeks, giving him utterance; "Alas !" cried he, "what will become of my poor dear young lady ! Her delicate frame will not bear so rude a shock ; we must go down and say he is indisposed, and will rest a little longer this morning. In the mean time I will run for a doctor, who shall call as a friendly visitor, and request the ladies not to disturb him."

This scheme was immediately put in practice by these faithful domestics, and, though Louisa and Maria were much affected, the doctor, who was in the secret, strictly charged he might be left to his repose for that day at least. Frequently did they gently steal to the top of the stair-case, but all was quiet ; Louisa thought her father was asleep. The doctor called again in the evening, when she

He begged him with tears to inform her if her father was in danger. He, scarce able to conceal the sympathizing tear that fell from his cheeks at the affectionate distress of the young ladies, assured them all would be well, if he was not disturbed ; for if Mr. Greaves ventured to speak, it might be attended with dangerous consequences, if not fatal. They promised to obey ; and, after staying late, he renewed his entreaties and departed. The young ladies retired, but not to sleep ; for, after the waiting-woman was gone, they arose, and dressing themselves by the pale glimmering light of the moon, sat down at their toilet, and, weeping, counted the hours. At length the clock struck twelve, and Louisa proposed listening at the chamber-door, to hear whether her father was better ; this was readily agreed to by Maria, who much wished to see him ; so taking her by the hand went softly to the door ; but hearing the nurse and one of the maids, who sat up with the body,

talking loud, the first words that struck the attention of Miss Greaves was, “Aye, “poor young lady, she little thinks my “dear master was found dead in his “bed.” Louisa gave a loud scream, and, bursting open the chamber-door, ran to the bed, and flinging herself on the corpse, cried out, “Oh! speak to “me, my dear father.—Oh! speak to “your Louisa!—Oh! cannot you answer then?—You are dead, and I will “die with you.”—Here her loud convulsive shrieks alarmed the house, and Maria fell motionless on the bed’s feet. The servants strove to separate her from the body, but in vain; she held her deceased parent so fast in her arms, it rose with her. At last, by force, they carried her to her chamber. But, when violent griefs assail the mind possessed by much sensibility, reason flutters on her throne, and wild ideas swim in imagination, till they dethrone the poor bird, and leave a perfect chaos. Such was the state of Miss Greaves; when she had exhausted  
her

her strength, she sunk into a deep melancholy, and nature denying the aid of tears, filled her mind with ten thousand chimeras of her parent. Sometimes she saw him in the power of ruffians who were depriving him of life; then would her passion exceed all bounds, and she was by force restrained from laying violent hands on herself; then again would she sweetly converse with his departed shade, and, in perfect recollection, express her grief at not receiving his last blessing. Thus fell, beneath the weight of sudden and unexpected sorrow, the beautiful Louisa, when she had but just entered her nineteenth year, whilst the forlorn Maria wept over her distracted friend, and seemed silently sinking into her peaceful grave.

In this dreadful situation were the lovely inhabitants of White Hall, when good Parson Ellis arrived. This gentleman had been left joint executor with Mr. Edward Greaves, nephew to the deceased, and whom we mentioned in the



beginning of this history. The grief this good man felt at the sight of Louisa may be easier conceived than described. Every method was tried for her recovery, but in vain ; and on his taking her into the room where her departed father lay, and opening the coffin to shew her the body, turning to Maria, said, “ I thought “ you told me, Miss Brookes you wou’d “ not visit the church-yard any more ? ” This was a sudden renewal of Maria’s sorrows ; she swooned in the arms of the parson, while Louisa screamed—“ Take “ her out of the vault ; she will die, and “ then my heart will break indeed.” At last the day arrived that was appointed for the funeral, and Louisa, at Mr. Ellis’s desire, was removed to a house that fronted the church-yard, and placed at a window, under which the procession was to pass. And as the cottagers now looked on her as a precious relict that inherited the virtues of her father, sent many fervent prayers to heaven for her recovery as they stood in crowds waiting for the arrival

arrival of the corpse. At last the procession came in sight, when the lady of the house pointed it out to Louisa, who would otherwise have let it pass unnoticed, and when it drew near gave a shriek—"Good heavens! Miss Greaves, "they are going to bury your father "alive."—"My father!—Is my father "dead?" exclaimed she;—"Yes, yes, "and they are going to bury him." "Oh! "my father! let me get to him, they "shall not bury him!" she cried, bursting into a flood of tears; "Oh! let me "save my father."—Parson Ellis, who had been listening in an adjoining room, now entered, leading Maria, who, weeping, embraced Louisa, and led her out of the house; Parson Ellis ordering the cavalcade to fall back, they followed the corpse into the church. Rivers of tears trickled down the cheeks of Louisa, who leaned on his arm, and saw the mortal remains of her father deposited by the side of her mother. She was by Parson

Ellis supported back to the mansion-house, where all the inhabitants of it shed tears of unfeigned sorrow, nor did the good clergyman disdain to join them. The house was shut up now, and no company received. Louisa found it most agreeable to indulge their melancholy in the large park and gardens with Parson Ellis, who would never suffer them to walk unattended by him. Three months had elapsed, when he received a letter from his daughter, with the advice of the death of her grandmother, and of a large sum of money that had been found in her possession. This lady, whose maiden name was Fitzroy, was descended from an ancient and honourable family; she had been married in the early part of her life to a gentleman of the name of Boyle, whose whole patrimony consisted of five thousand pounds, and a captain's commission in the army; and as they had but one daughter, (afterwards Mrs. Ellis) and her father too much pride to stain his blood by

by engaging in any pursuit that would better his fortune, they lived in splendid poverty; that is, they had just enough to discharge their debts once a quarter, and not a single shilling more that they could call their own. This of course led them to be great œconomists; and Captain Boyle, who was continually torturing his brain to raise a fortune for his daughter, without entering into any mercantile engagements, ventured two thousand pounds in the South Sea bubble in the year 1742. But all his golden dreams vanishing with his disappointment, the loss he met with took such an effect upon him, that it deprived him of his senses, and, after lingering three years in this terrible situation, ended his life in a private mad-house. This had nearly reduced Mrs. Boyle to a similar one, which concluded in a most covetous disposition. She discharged her servants, and changing her name, for fear of being discovered by any of her own or husband's relations,



lations, she retired to W——n, allowing herself and daughter no more than the income of her pension to live upon, laying up yearly the interest of three thousand pounds, which she took great pleasure in looking at, though she never ventured to touch it, and her continually pleading poverty induced her neighbours to believe her really as poor as she pretended. Her daughter, who was now grown big enough to save the expence of a servant, was presented with a book of cookery instead of a grammar, and her needle supplied the place of a pen. In this manner did she live with Miss Boyle, who was a blooming country lass, and skilled in every perfection that graced the neighbouring farmers wives, as she was intended by her mother for nothing better; and which she certainly would have been, had not her rosy cheeks and fine black eyes captivated the heart of Mr. Ellis, who, pleased with her native innocence, and not thinking it necessary for *his wife*

to

to be a fine lady, especially as he had nothing but his curacy to support her with, solicited the hand of Betsey Boyle : but his suit was rejected by the mother, who had set her mind on uniting her with a neighbouring farmer, over whose fertile acres she had frequently walked with much pleasure, while she imagined her daughter would be one day mistress of them. But, finding all opposition vain, at last consented to their union, and selling off her goods, lived with them till her death, at the parsonage, when, upon searching her trunks, three thousand guineas were found, which she had saved independent of what was left by her husband—and a will, in which he had bequeathed the interest for her life, and the principal at her death to his daughter. This news was received with great surprise by the parson, who declared, that he always thought his mother-in-law was as poor as she pretended. He answered the letter immediately, charging Miss Ellis to stay

with her mother, as it was impossible for him to leave White Hall till the other executor was present, as it was the late Mr. Greaves's desire he would see every thing settled before he quitted that place.

At last Mr. Edward Greaves arrived, and the will was opened in the presence of all the family, except Louisa, whose frequent faintings obliged her to be carried out of the room, in which he bequeathed " forty thousand pounds, with the manor and estates belonging to White Hall, to his daughter; and, in case of her death, without issue, to Maria Brooks, daughter of his late beloved friend, John Brooks, Esq. of W——n; to his nephew, Mr. Edward Greaves, the sum of five hundred pounds, exclusive of the moiety of two thousand pounds to be equally divided between him and the good parson for their trouble as executors; to Miss Ellis two thousand pounds; kindly remembering all his servants, and his old pension-

penfioners, whom he ftiled his unfortunate friends, to whom he gave the fame allowance they enjoyed in his life-time; and, in cafe of Louifa's marrying, and having a family, he then gave ten thoufand pounds to Maria, out of the forty thoufand, at the birth of his daughter's firft child."

Mr. Edward Greaves was about twenty-nine years of age, his perfon tall, his manner elegant, an aftonifhing quicknefs of thought, and an agreeable eafy converfation, made him a great favourite of the ladies, who are in general captivated by thofe men who do not think it worth while to contradict them. This was his difpofition, who, under the mask of an obliging affability, and profound veneration of their opinions, held the *whole fex* in the higheft contempt, often declaring to his bofom friends, he conceived them in no other view than *necelfary evils*. His father was the youngeft brother of the deceased Mr. Greaves;



**Greaves** ; he had amassed a large fortune by merchandize, but his covetous disposition not suffering him to spend any part of it, he lived contented in Coleman-street, and if, by chance, he passed an evening from home, it was in company with his barber over a pot of porter. In this manner he lived till he had realized the sum of two hundred thousand pounds, when he was seized with the small-pox, which he fancied he caught by seeing a person pass his compting-house window, newly recovered of that disorder, and died. His son was then in his seventeenth year ; his father intending he should be brought up in the same line, left the greatest part of his fortune to his wife. This lady had long regretted the narrow education of Edward ; and, as she was unacquainted with his private sentiments, which were truly vicious, she sent for a pious divine, and entrusted him to his care. But all the wise precepts of his worthy tutor were

were thrown away upon this young libertine : he was enraged at not being left in possession of his father's fortune, declaring it was a false will, and even attempted to set it aside, but not succeeding, he joined with a set of wretches who led him into every scene of riot and dissipation that corrupts morals, and destroys youth, ever rendering them callous to the feelings of humanity. For, what ideas can any man entertain of the amiable part of the sex, who has never been used to converse with any other than the bad ? But such are the sentiments of a great part of mankind, and, sorry I am to say, that they form them from their own depraved conduct. Of this opinion, was a great man ; \* and though I admire his writings, yet I despise his malevolence.

But to return to my story, Edward was much vexed at not being left sole

\* Who says, " Every woman is at heart a rake."

executor to his uncle's will, for he had formed a *noble* plan to cheat his cousin out of her fortune; but as this was impossible, he was obliged to put on the appearance of content, though a stranger to his heart, he seemingly lamented the death of his uncle in the most extravagant manner.

Every thing being now settled, and as Mr. Ellis was much wanted at the parsonage, he set off, recommending Louisa and Maria to his care.

## C H A P. IV.

LOUISA, who revered her father's memory too much to dislike the man that he had named as one of his executors, consulting Miss Brooks, chose Edward for her guardian, while Maria begged Parson Ellis to act for her. This was what Mr. Edward Greaves had aimed at; he was pleased when she informed him of her determination, but greatly chagrined when she requested him to write to Mr. Ellis to take upon him the same office for her friend, though he much approved her choice with his usual dissimulation, and immediately obeyed his cousin's commands.

Six months elapsed, when they received a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Groves, who were going to spend a few weeks at Rose Hall; they were much amazed  
at



at hearing of Mr. Greaves's death, which, till then, they were strangers to, as they had been more than twelve months in London on account of a law-suit they were engaged in. Mrs. Groves was sensibly affected at the melancholy news, and, after comforting the ladies as far as in her power, they set off for her father's. Miss Ellis now visited White Hall with the good Parson, who intended to leave her there while he went to London to transact some affairs of her late grandmother. Her lively disposition made Louisa appear with a small degree of cheerfulness, and, with great persuasion, she prevailed on her to appear in the village, where the poor cottagers beheld her as the sun that had been long obscured. They flew to get a sight of their beloved lady, and could not refrain from tears at beholding her emaciated frame, that seemed but a shadow of herself; while she diffused her benevolence to all around her, especially those who had

had been the favourites of her father. Edward, in their absence, received a letter from Mr. Adair, the gentleman mentioned in the first volume of this history, desiring him to take him a house in his neighbourhood, as his sister was in an ill state of health, and had a great desire to be near White Hall. This gave Louisa much pleasure, as she had often regretted her not keeping up a correspondence with Miss Adair, as this young lady was a great favourite of Mr. Hilyard's, whose company she would have been very glad of. A house very near, happened to be vacant, answering the description, was immediately taken, and workmen ordered to put it in proper repair for them, and in less than a month every thing was completed for their reception. At last the much-wished-for day arrived, and Miss Adair alighted at White Hall. This young lady, who was in her twenty-fourth year, very tall, and what may be called a *brown beauty*, her temper

temper sprighly, and her manners polite and engaging. She had been brought up with a young gentleman to whom her father had been guardian; and his parents had on their death bed desired that they might be united. Their hearts seemed to anticipate the wishes of their friends; but as they did not live to see them fulfilled, they made them solemnly promise to marry each other as soon as they came of age, charging young Mr. Adair to give his sister away at the altar to Mr. Blond. For three years after their decease, Mr. Blond paid every attention to Miss Adair, omitting no opportunity to gain her affections, in which he succeeded but too well, and every preparation was made for the wedding, when this perjured lover gave his hand to a woman he kept, and to avoid her brother's resentment, set off for France; but the hand of him who avenges the cause of the innocent, followed him, and the little vessel driven by

con-

contrary winds on the coast, where himself and many of the crew perished. This heavy disappointment so much affected Miss Adair, that her health was greatly impaired, and the physicians, fearful of a decline, ordered her to the south of France; but this journey she could not be prevailed on to take, and recollecting the abode of Miss Greaves, whom she often wished to see, prevailed on her brother to write to White Hall, as before related.

They were now as happy as such a melancholy group could be, and found pleasing relief by relating to each other their own misfortunes; many a long evening were spent in recounting the pleasures and sorrows of past time: and as Mr. Adair's house was not above half a mile distant, they were one family. Time thus slipped away till the return of Parson Ellis from London, who came to take his daughter back to the parsonage. This parting gave Louisa and  
 Maria



Maria some uneasiness, but a promise of Miss Ellis's company in the spring, soon dispelled their sorrows. The winter now drew on apace, and with it the long comfortable evenings that are spent in music, reading, and other elegant amusements; frequently Maria took her place at the harpsichord, and beguiled the tedious hours with the most enchanting harmony: sometimes Mr. Adair read select passages from those immortal poets, Shakespeare and Milton, pointing out their beauties with all the charming eloquence he was master of, delighting his auditors, and indeed, while in the presence of Louisa, his whole soul dwelt on his lips, his words and actions were inspired, and his native dignity shone forth with redoubled grace. He often lamented the indisposition of his sister in the most tender manner, declaring he would part with every thing that was precious to him if he could but regain her peace. Louisa used to sympathize  
with

with him, often shedding tears of pity for her friend's misfortunes, till love, softly creeping, gained the ascendance over friendship, and sat enthroned in both their hearts. She was the divinity of Mr. Adair; the sound of her voice threw him into raptures not to be described, and every opportunity he dwelt silently on her heavenly form, while his tender looks told the passion that possessed his soul. Louisa trembled; sensations ran through her whole frame, and a sight of him rendered her scarce able to support herself. She knew not the danger of bestowing her affections before she was assured of a return. Louisa now took her solitary rambles, attended by Maria, and indulged a tenderness known to those only who have felt such, while her desponding lover durst not declare his passion, but having free access to White Hall, generally roved in the Park and told his tale to the zephyrs,

zephyrs, invoked the muses, and carved her name on every tree.

One fine evening he had muffled up himself in a great-coat, and amused himself in walking about the extensive Park, when he saw his sister, Louisa, and Maria, approaching the spot where he sat: amazed on the appearance of his sister, who he knew would banter him on his being there unknown to the family, he rose hastily, and concealed himself among the trees unperceived, through a thicket, at a distance, until an opportunity offered of getting out unperceived. Maria, who had just a glimpse of this romantic lover, assured Miss Adair and Louisa, she had seen him, but on their coming to the place, no traces could be found. "Good Heavens!" said Miss Adair, looking at Louisa, "what magnet can  
 " draw him to this solitary place? if he  
 " had met with any disappointment, he  
 " might seek these places to amuse his  
 " melancholy in; but I have often  
 heard

“heard him declare, that he never saw  
 “a woman he could love.”—“Aye,”  
 interrupted Maria, “I suppose he is  
 “caught at last; we have walked some  
 “distance from the house, and I think  
 “we will rest ourselves on this chair,  
 “for I am certain I saw him, and he  
 “cannot be far from hence, without  
 “he means to play Romeo, and hide  
 “himself to survey his Juliet’s window  
 “by moon-light.” Louisa, blushing,

spoke not a word, fearful of farther  
 conversation on the subject, that raised  
 emotions she could scarce conceal. Not  
 far distant from the place where they sat  
 was a large piece of water with an island  
 in the middle, upon which Mr. Greaves  
 had built a summer-house, and a pavilion  
 for music; there was a beautiful toned  
 finger-organ, with several other instru-  
 ments. The sun was on the decline,  
 and as the day had been very hot, its  
 crimson beams played gently on the  
 water, and caused a most beautiful reflec-



tion, which they sat admiring for some time, when Miss Adair proposed crossing the Chinese bridge, and looking into the pavilion, saying, "She supposed the dis-  
 " console *Romeo* was gone there to in-  
 " dulse himself in some love *airs*." Mr. Adair, who saw them coming, and had no way to escape, took a harp, and began to try the strings, when the ladies entered. "Good Heavens! brother, why did you run away from us?" cried his sister; "I am sure you saw us coming down the serpentine-walk." He assured the ladies he was ignorant of their being in the Park, declaring the fineness of the evening invited him to stroll into it.—"Well, we believe you," interrupted Maria, "but, as a penance for not calling at White Hall, you shall escort us to a poor woman's cottage, who has lately lost her husband."

This was readily complied with, and they proceeded towards a farm-house  
 near

near a mile distant. The deceased was formerly a servant to Mr. Greaves, but, marrying, he had settled him in it. He unfortunately fell off a cart loaded with hay, and dislocated his neck, and before proper assistance could be obtained, he died, leaving a widow and four small children destitute. The news no sooner reached the ear of Louisa, than she sent a servant to assure her, she would take them under her protection, and visit her as soon as her husband was buried: just as they were going, they were joined by Miss Adair, who agreed to accompany them, when walking through the Park Maria espied her brother, who attempted to avoid them in the manner mentioned. At the farmhouse they found the poor woman surrounded by her little family; she had prepared every thing for their reception, as Louisa had previously sent word of their coming that evening. They drank tea in a small arbour in the garden, and

were waited upon by her little god-daughter, a fine child about ten years old, who was educated at her expence, being intended for her own servant.

The evening was far advanced when they took their departure, after presenting the poor woman with twenty pounds. They were just entering the Park, when three fellows, armed with pistols, issued from behind a hedge and demanded their purses. The ladies clasped round Mr. Adair, who, with more courage than prudence, swore he would not be robbed. "Come, come, Sir," cried one of the ruffians, "you must not pretend to trifle with us, so deliver this instant." This, and the ladies entreaties, rather pacified him, and they gave them their purses, the contents of which were pretty considerable, except Louisa's, who had emptied her's at the farm-house, when one of the robbers seeing a picture hang down her bosom, snatched it away: ter-  
red

rified at their pistols, and resolute behaviour, she fell on her knees, and with tears begged they would return it; but deaf to her entreaties, they laughed, and told her, she was rich enough to buy another. Her tears wound up the passion of Mr. Adair beyond all bounds, and taking aim at the fellow, who was very deliberately pocketing the Miniature, in an instant laid him on the ground, grappling with another, he wrenched the pistol from his hand, whilst the third, who was a few yards distant from his companions, turned round and fired at him, the ball wounded his arm; the screams of the ladies were violent, added to the calmness of the evening, carried the report of the pistol a great way in the Park, just as the gardener and two of his men were putting up their tools; they hastened to the place time enough to rescue Mr. Adair from the hands of the ruffians, who had got him down on the ground,



and was going to murder him. The gardener, when he saw them, had the presence of mind to halloo, as if a dozen more had been behind; this so alarmed them, that, throwing away the Miniature, they fled with precipitation towards a neighbouring wood. The whole care of the servants was now directed to Mr. Adair, who had received several wounds, which, with the loss of blood, rendered him too faint to walk; he was carried to White Hall, while the ladies followed trembling. A bed was made ready, and a surgeon sent for, who, upon examining his wounds, pronounced them not dangerous. This was some relief to the ladies, who were inconsolable, especially Louisa.

As soon as he was able to sit up, they were his constant visitors; they sung, embroidered, painted, and otherwise amused themselves. This was a most charming elysium, and the presence of his Louisa amply repaid him

him for all the pains he had undergone, and she, considering this misfortune as it really was, his sole attention to the loss of her Miniature, indulged the pleasing idea of being beloved by the man she had long given her heart to. His eyes brightened when she entered the room, while her form became animated, and the quickness of the blood brought the glowing blush into her cheeks, which gave them an additional lustre. When nearly recovered, he pretended to be much worse than he really was, to avoid returning to his own house; at last, he got well enough to walk in the Park, and as the surgeon had ordered exercise, he took his solitary rambles again, and in the lonely shade would meditate on the perfections of his mistress. One day, Maria had walked out with Miss Adair, Louisa being rather indisposed, did not accompany them, but amused herself with her harpsichord; when he, returning from walking, drawn by

the harmony of her music, was involuntarily led into the parlour, where he stood unperceived while she played several airs, which she accompanied with sighs. Suddenly stopping, " Good Heavens ! " she exclaimed, " with what various " passions is the human heart affected : " pride, ambition, and every wish give " way to love, *that* insensibly steals into " the breast : yet, sure I may without a " crime indulge this passion, when the " object is so amiable, and who valiantly " risked his life, for what I held dearer " than my own, the likeness of my " honoured father." Mr. Adair had now heard enough to confirm his happiness, and wishing to get out unperceived by Louisa, turned softly round, but happening to be over-cautious, threw down a large musick-book that laid upon a chair behind him ; the noise made her turn round, when she beheld Mr. Adair ; almost deprived of motion, she attempted to rise ; a crimson blush

over-

overspread her face, which instantly changed into a death-like paleness, and trembling, she sunk down on the chair. He flew to her assistance, and at her feet implored pardon for his intrusion, whilst she, turning away her head, attempted to conceal the falling tears, gently waving her hand for his departure, which he pressed to his lips, and retired.

Louisa remained some minutes, but as soon as she saw him cross the lawn, withdrew to her chamber, more displeased at her own incaution, than his presumption. Maria and Miss Adair now returned, and inquiring for Miss Greaves, were informed by her waiting-woman, she was in her dressing-room; alarmed, for fear of a relapse of her late dreadful disorder, especially as she had observed her to be melancholy, Maria went immediately, and found her in tears, tenderly inquiring the cause, which Louisa informed her with blushes: Maria did all in her power to console her, adding,



she did not think there was any cause for grief, as she was sure their affections were mutual.

Miss Adair had borrowed her miniature, under pretence of getting a copy for her own wearing, but on Maria's questioning her, owned it was for her brother. The blush came and returned on the cheek of Louisa, while she related the circumstance. It was resolved to invite Miss Adair to her dressing-room, and under the plea of indisposition, avoid being seen that day by her brother; but an hour had not elapsed, before a countryman brought the following note :

“ MADAM,

“ AFTER the unpardon-  
 “ able rudeness I have been guilty of,  
 “ I dare not approach that presence,  
 “ which I call Heaven to witness, was  
 “ the cause of my intrusion; drawn by  
 “ the enchanting harmony of your  
 “ music,

“ music, and still more by the charming  
 “ performer, I ventured to stand some  
 “ minutes silent, but the fear of your  
 “ heavy displeasure has deprived me of  
 “ that happiness I should otherwise have  
 “ enjoyed. Permit me, Madam, to  
 “ solicit your forgiveness, for never dare  
 “ I revisit White Hall without your per-  
 “ mission.”

Louisa shewed this note to Maria, who  
 declared it would be too much like the  
 character of coquet to dissemble her real  
 wishes after what had passed; she there-  
 fore prevailed on her to answer it, when  
 taking her pen she wrote as follows;

“ Miss Greaves would be extremely  
 “ sorry that any of her friends should  
 “ absent themselves from White Hall,  
 “ and she must esteem the brother of  
 “ Miss Adair one.”

If any prude should read this, let them not condemn it for being too forward, when I assure them, the charming writer was above deceit; and if any coquet reads it, she may rest assured Louisa was not one of *them*, therefore, they must not cry, “ *Lard!* the silly creature; why, if “ it had been *me*, I would have protested “ I had not the least *affection* for Mr. “ Adair; and, oh dear! I would have “ taken all the pains in the world to “ have pleased and plagued him, and if “ I had seen him look at another *woman*, “ then I would have fainted, and the “ moment we were by ourselves, ran “ away from him, and declared that I “ detested him; if *Louisa* had done so, “ why, perhaps in time, she might have “ seen some other gentleman she liked “ better. Well, I am sure she did not “ edify by being in London, where “ many a lady is married (I mean disposed of) without seeing her husband. “ *Lard*, how unfashionable! ’tis the  
most

most awkward thing in nature, to *be in* “love with one’s *own husband.*” These are the sentiments of some modern ladies I could name; but if this description ever falls into their hands, let us hope they will see the impropriety of expressing them.



## C H A P. V.

MR. Adair received Miss Greaves's note with raptures, and met the blushing Louisa at dinner. She found the *head-ach* had suddenly left her, and was well enough recovered to walk in the Park, when he, under the pretext of shewing her where some improvements might be made, allured her from Maria and his sister, and, taking that advantage, declared his passion. She replied, "she had incautiously told her sentiments already;" then hastily joined her company.

As Mr. Adair was now perfectly re-established in his health, he and his sister had fixed that evening for their return to their own house. They took leave, promising

promising to visit each other every opportunity.

Several weeks had passed, when they were most agreeably surprized by the arrival of Mr. Edward Greaves and Mr. Hillyard. Mr. Greaves had often heard Louisa lament her not being acquainted with Mr. Hillyard's residence; she, not chusing to enter into a correspondence with Lady Modely, had applied for information to Miss Adair, who informed her he generally slept at his niece's; but, of late, she had heard that lady say he had left town, and where he was gone she could not tell.

When the first compliments were over, Mr. Hillyard congratulated her on her stay in the country, assuring her, if she persevered, she would *continue* in his good opinion.—Louisa returned, “that  
 “ what was her natural inclination was no  
 “ merit; she must therefore beg him not  
 “ to consider it as such;”—At which he clasped his hands, and cried, “Thank  
 “ God

“ God, one fair flower has escaped contagion, and is left to blossom in its native soil.”

The next morning, Mr. Hillyard visited the village, where he was so delighted with the accounts given him of Miss Greaves and Miss Brooks, that the moment he entered the room where they were sitting, he in an ecstasy of joy embraced them, calling them his dear children, praying God to bless and prolong their lives.—“ But, alas !” cried he with a sigh, “ I am afraid you are too good for this world ; I was once superlatively blest with an angel like you, (looking at Miss Greaves) and admired her as divinity itself—for such, indeed, she was ; she was a nurse to the sick, a mother to the helpless, and a friend to the distressed—she was too good for me to enjoy ; I saw the icy arms of Death embrace her lovely body, while her precious soul took its airy flight to its native skies. Near a week I sat by  
“ her

“ her coffin, and mourned, as if the clay  
 “ retained the sense, though not the  
 “ power, to answer me :—at last I was  
 “ torn away by a good clergyman, her  
 “ brother. Nothing could prevail on  
 “ me to quit the house ; and, in spite of  
 “ *fashionable* remonstrances, I attended  
 “ the mournful remains of my better half  
 “ to the *tomb*—all I could do was to  
 “ shed a *tear of affection*, though I now  
 “ yearly shed thousands to her memory.  
 “ Her image is engraven on my heart,  
 “ and time can never efface it.”

The tears trickled down his cheeks,  
 and pearly drops filled the eyes of Louisa  
 and Maria, when the entrance of Mr.  
 Adair, his sister, and Mr. Greaves, put a  
 stop to the conversation.—Mr. Adair,  
 perceiving Louisa’s eyes looked red, ten-  
 derly inquired after her health. It was  
 late in the evening before they parted ;  
 Mr. Hillyard had retired to his chamber.  
 —After a pause, Mr. Greaves cried,  
 “ Surely it can’t be a truth ? ” — “ What ? ”  
 replied



replied Louisa.—“ That you are going  
 “ to marry Mr. Adair.”—Louisa blush-  
 ed; but, recollecting herself, returned,  
 “ Sure, Sir, you are not in earnest to  
 “ question me with such authority ?”—  
 He now began to think he had assumed  
 too much. As he was a perfect master  
 of dissimulation he altered his tone of  
 voice, and, with the utmost calmness,  
 replied, “ Nothing but your interest, my  
 “ dear cousin, could make me take the  
 “ liberty; I was informed so.”—“ Then  
 “ it is a truth, I assure you, Sir,” she re-  
 plied, “ and it is my unalterable resolu-  
 “ tion.”—“ Why, Miss Greaves, confi-  
 “ der your fortune entitles you to a much  
 “ superior match.”—“ Very probable,  
 “ Sir; but his character is unexception-  
 “ able.”

Whether this argument touched Ed-  
 ward too near, I will not say; he begged  
 pardon, and making a low bow retired,  
 leaving her and Maria in the utmost con-  
 sternation. Louisa had found her-  
 self

self much hurt at the beginning of his discourse, yet his apology soothed her, especially on Maria's representing there might be some reason for his objection.—

“For, surely, my dear,” said she, “Mr. Greaves would never suffer a gentleman to receive the hand of his cousin that was not worthy of it; and yet I cannot think so of Mr. Adair, and should be very unwilling to believe Mr. Greaves preferred interest to merit;” adding, “Mr. Hillyard, who knew the Adair family, must certainly be acquainted with his character, and he was not a person who would be secret, when the happiness of a young lady, for whom he professed such regard, depended upon it.”

This Louisa consented to; and it was agreed Maria should embrace the first opportunity of satisfying themselves. Mr. Hillyard informed Miss Brooks he entertained the highest opinion of his humanity, justice, and every other virtue that  
can

can adorn an honest man. This account made Louisa happy, and she readily concluded her cousin's motive was a view of marrying her to some gentleman, whose fortune was more equivalent to her own than Mr. Adair's, whose estate was little more than one thousand pounds a year, and, as she conceived, it was only his solicitude for her welfare. All reserve was dropped on her side; but it was not so with him—he had marked Louisa as his sure *prey*, and flattered himself she could not refuse him. Full of this idea he had gained her permission to reside at White Hall, and as false reports are easier propagated, and sooner believed than truth, and knowing the delicate sentiments of Louisa, thought, by seeing a parcel of wretches that he had at his command, to publish scandal, and by those means to make himself master of her person and fortune. But this scheme was frustrated, on Mr. Adair and his sister coming to reside at the village, and it was

was much against his inclination that the house was taken for them ; but hearing Miss Greaves express such satisfaction on the occasion, he acquiesced.

They had not been settled above three weeks, when he received a packet from London, which required his immediate attendance, and kept him there the remainder of the summer.

On his return, he was informed by his servant, who he had left there as a spy, of the intended wedding. At this unexpected news he scarce knew how to conceal his chagrin, and was some days considering what step he had best take, to prevent a union which gave him so much uneasiness, and which he counted as a great part of his own fortune ; at last he resolved to attack his cousin, and laid every bait imagination could suggest, to draw Mr. Adair into the company of some gentlemen who were lately come into the neighbourhood, and were notorious drunkards ; though he avoided ap-  
 2 pearing



pearing at White Hall the least intoxicated himself, yet he brought constant accounts of Mr. Adair, who, to oblige him, had frequently attended him.

These nocturnal revels at last reached the ear of Mr. Hillyard; and the first visit the old gentleman paid him, he did not fail to remonstrate on the impropriety of his conduct, when he was on the eve of being united to such an amiable young lady as Miss Greaves; adding, “she  
 “was much offended at the description  
 “her cousin gave of his behaviour,  
 “whenever he accompanied him to El-  
 “ford!”——“What!” interrupted he,  
 “did Greaves give those narratives,  
 “when it was at his persuasion, and  
 “to oblige him, I went?”——“Good  
 “Heavens,” cried Mr. Hillyard, “then  
 “go no more; and learn that he,  
 “who wishes you to degrade yourself  
 “beneath the brutes in the fields, can  
 “never be your friend.”—This was a  
 clap

clap of thunder to Adair, but he resolved to visit White Hall that evening.

When they arrived there, Mr. Hillyard, looking steadfastly at Greaves, with a severe countenance, cried out, "So, I find these pretty Elford gentry are your acquaintances, Sir?"—Louisa looked at her cousin, (who changed colour) and left the room; but returning in a few minutes, with a smile asked him, "If ever he denied them?"—"No, Sir!" replied Mr. Hillyard; "but I don't think it generous to draw a friend into follies, and then expose him."—This was laughed at by Greaves, who, to palliate the matter, said, "He never thought any ill consequences could arise from any harmless amusement, especially when there was no avoiding it; but, however, he would entreat his cousin to favour them with an air or two upon her harpsichord, which he hoped would dispel his anger."—Mr. Hillyard sighed, and

Louisa, pleased that Mr. Adair was not what he had been represented, rose, with the utmost complaisance, and taking her place at the instrument, with the greatest vivacity, played the charming ballad of Roslin Castle, of which Mr. Adair was a great admirer.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

THOUGH Louisa was by no means pleased with the mean artifices of Greaves to lessen Mr. Adair in her opinion, yet, out of respect to her father's memory, who had appointed him one of his executors, she let it pass over in silence, but it only served to hasten her approaching nuptials; and, at the entreaties of Maria and Mr. Hillyard, she promised to give her hand to Mr. Adair, whilst Greaves, who saw it vain to attempt opposing it, reluctantly acquiesced.

This happy assemblage was now augmented by another visiter, the good Parson Ellis. He had taken a journey to White Hall, on purpose to invite Miss Greaves and Miss Brooks to *his* daughter's wedding, who was going to marry



young Mr. Brooks, of the Manor House. His request was cheerfully complied with ; and, in a few days, they attended him to the Parsonage, leaving Mr. Hill-yard to take care of their pensioners. They were accompanied part of the way by Mr. Adair, who had been invited by the Parson ; but this he was obliged to decline, Louisa insisting on his returning to his sister, who found herself too much indisposed to undertake a journey of forty miles across the country. They arrived at the Parsonage, where they found Mrs. Ellis busily employed in making great preparations for the approaching nuptials.

Tom was dispatched to the Manor House, to let Miss Ellis know of the ladies arrival, and to request the favour of her company. She joyfully obeyed their summons, and shed tears of joy, on seeing them once more at the Parsonage. A week had passed, when every thing  
being

being in readiness, they accompanied her to the altar, when a grand ball concluded the evening, and the poor parishioners were made happy in seeing the lovely daughter of their good Pastor superlatively so.

This wedding was attended by the father of the bridegroom, (his mother dying shortly after Miss Brooks went to reside at White Hall) who, seeing the fondness of Mr. Ellis for her, gave the ladies an invitation to the Manor House; and Maria, who wished to revisit the place where she had passed so many happy hours, accepted it, and anxiously longed for the day that young Mr. Brooks and his wife would leave the Parsonage to reside there. At last the happy day arrived, and Mrs. Brooks took leave of her father and mother, and attended by her husband, Louisa, and Maria, went to her new habitation, where a large company of his friends and relations had assembled to receive her;

and as Miss Brooks, with what Mr. Greaves had left her, was in possession of seventeen thousand pounds, this fortune made all her distant relations wish to be acquainted with her, and to ingratiate themselves in her esteem, saluted her by the name of Cousin. They now renewed their walks to the Castle, where Maria shed tears at the remembrance of past times, and obtained a promise from Mrs. Brooks, never to suffer the venerable remains to be pulled down, or destroyed, whilst she lived.

After a few weeks stay they returned to White Hall, Mr. and Miss Adair meeting them half way; as for Mr. Greaves he went to London, as soon as the ladies set off for the Parsonage. Mr. Adair now requested her to name the day when she would complete his happiness; Louisa, blushing, said she would be entirely guided by Mr. Hillyard, and took an opportunity of asking his opinion, who advised her not to marry till she was of age,

age, as he fancied she would meet with some difficulty in obtaining her guardian's consent; shewing a letter he had received from him since his departure, wherein he expressed great dislike to the match, and entreated him to join in persuading her she was wrong; assuring him her interest was his only motive, and declaring nothing should induce him to give his consent to such an absurd union.

“Base ingratitude!” cried Louisa, (flinging it down) “to take the paltry advantage of the power I intrusted him with; but since it must be so, I shall not resist, but wait the time that will take it from him.”—Mr. Hillyard applauded her resolution, and begged Louisa not to give any reason to Mr. Adair, whose warm temper would certainly resent his behaviour, and it might be attended with the most serious consequences. This she promised, and entreated him to make some trifling excuse to her lover, who was obliged to comply

F 3

with



with what he thought the commands of his mistress.

Six months imperceptibly flit away, when Louisa completed her one and twentieth year, and in a few days was put in possession of her fortune by her cousin. Every preparation was now made for her nuptials, and the week following named by Mr. Hillyard.

She had been one evening to visit the farm-house, and give orders to the widow about her god-daughter, whom she intended to take to the Hall as soon as she was married. As she was standing at the gate, talking to the woman, she saw a great crowd coming up the road, and several people running before, but in so much hurry, that they could not make any answer to "what is the matter?" At last a litter, supported by four men, came by with a dead body, most shockingly mangled. Louisa turned away from the dreadful sight, when the name of 'Squire Adair assailed her ears, and, looking round,

round, she beheld her betrothed husband a pale corpse, his blood streaming from his wounds ! With horror she sprang forward, and with the speed of the affrighted deer reached White Hall.

• Miss Brooks was sitting in the parlour, and Mr. Hillyard, seeing her run with such swiftness, ordered a servant to open the door. She flew in, flinging herself into the arms of Maria, and hiding her head in her bosom, exclaimed, “ Oh ! my Maria, all is over ; ” and with a dreadful scream fell into fits. Whilst they were striving to recover her, the servant who attended her came home, and requesting to speak to Miss Brooks, related the shocking account of Mr. Adair’s death.

He had lately purchased a blood horse, and was riding to Elford ; a farmer, who was watching a flight of birds, to keep them from destroying a field newly sown with hay seeds, fired just as he was passing by ; the horse, taking fright at the

sudden report, threw him, and ran away ; but his foot being entangled in the stirrup, he was dragged near a mile before the animal could be stopped ; so that his skull was fractured in several places, and he died before the least assistance could be procured. This sad account Maria related to Mr. Hillyard, (as soon as Louisa was removed to her chamber) and at her desire, the old gentleman set out for Mr. Adair's house, where he found Miss Adair in a state short of distraction, and with great entreaty prevailed on her to leave it. At last she was rather forced than persuaded, and was supported to the carriage by her woman, who attended her to White Hall, leaving Mr. Hillyard to give necessary orders concerning the funeral.

Louisa was the next that claimed the attention of Mr. Hillyard, for she was no sooner recovered out of one fit, than she relapsed into another, and continued so near a week. At last the entreaties of  
 Maria

Maria and Miss Adair prevailed, and she became more composed; and on the day of his burial, which was obliged to pass White Hall in its way to the church, she was supported at her window to behold the mournful sight, which she did, with a composure that astonished her whole family, straining her longing eyes as far as she could after it, till quite out of her sight. She then gently sighed, "I shall soon join you in another world." Lowness of spirits, with the fits, in a short time reduced her to a shadow, and the physicians advised her to try the air of Montpelier, but no persuasions could prevail on her to quit White Hall. She lingered three months in a deep decline, constantly attended by Maria, who slept by her bed-side, and never quitted her chamber. Sensible of her approaching dissolution, she eagerly wished for it; and when she saw her friend shed tears, would express much displeasure, telling her, she should enjoy greater satisfaction in



the embrace of the grim tyrant, than she should at her recovery ; frequently saying, “ Those that were afraid of death “ were not fit to live. For who,” cried she, “ would desire to inhabit this vale “ of tears, and possess a body that is subject to every distress and infirmity, “ when they can shake it off, and enjoy “ eternal life and happiness with their “ Creator ? And as I find a comfort in “ relying on him, shall soon leave all my “ painful remembrances behind me, and “ be re-united with those I held most “ dear.”

At last the Doctor, who she had earnestly entreated (if it was in his power) to let her know when her time drew near, informed her one week more would put an end to her mortal life, and, he hoped, would give her an immortal one. She received this intelligence with a smile, and giving the keys of her secretaire to Miss Brooks, begged she would bring her purse and her pocket-book, then ordered

dered the nurse to support her, and call all her servants into her presence. When they were assembled, she lifted up her hands, and in a fervent prayer begged a blessing of God for them, and blessing them herself, she made each of them presents.—“ If I had lived,” said she, “ this “ is what I intended to have given you “ on the day I changed my name, but “ I shall soon be wedded to my grave. “ I have embraced this opportunity of “ taking my last farewell, and as Miss “ Brooks will soon be your mistress, I “ hope you will give her as much reason “ to love you as you did me; she is in “ every respect deserving your attention, and will reward your cares and “ fidelity much better than I have done. “ You may now depart.”

After this she sent for her attorney, and making her will, gave five thousand pounds, (part of the ten thousand left her by her aunt) to Miss Adair, and the

F 6

interest

interest of the remainder to Mr. Hill-yard, in trust, to be disposed of in private charity. Her jewels and cloaths to Miss Brooks, saying, if she had not been so well provided for by her father, she should certainly have been the first remembered by her, and begging the attorney to put his seal upon it, and lodge it in her secretaire. This done, she made him a present. When he had taken his leave, Maria went up. Louisa calling her to the bed-side, tenderly embraced her, saying, “they should meet in happier regions, never more to be separated.” Then sending for Miss Adair, and saluting her by the name of *sister*, begged she would consider Miss Brooks as *one*.

Finding herself exhausted, she desired the nurse to draw her curtains, and fell into an easy slumber. Towards the morning she awoke, and complaining of want of air, desired to be raised  
up;

up ; but not finding herself better, said,  
 “ My lamp will be soon extinguished ! ”  
 and taking the hand of Maria, who was  
 standing at the bed-side, expired with a  
 gentle sigh.

C H A P.



## C H A P. VII.

**M**R. Greaves now arrived at the Hall, where his presence was much wanted, as every person there was so affected with the death of the fair mistress of it, that grief had almost rendered them inanimate. He pretended much sorrow at the death of his cousin, and declared to Maria, that if his fortune could restore her to life and happiness, he would freely give it—and embracing her, he called her his adopted cousin, and entreated her to leave the chamber of Louisa; but no persuasions could prevail on Miss Brooks to quit the body of her deceased friend. She slept by her bedside, and, in spite of *fashion*, attended her to the grave.

At last the day came, when the remains of the once charming Louisa were to be

taken to their long abode. The villagers and the pensioners were permitted to take the last farewell of their great benefactress, and kiss the clay-cold hand that so often cheered them. The Hall was darkened, and the rooms hung with black velvet. The twinkling light from the wax tapers spread a solemn gloom over the whole. The hearse was drawn by six horses decorated with white plumes; four mourning coaches followed. In the first went Mr. Hillyard and Maria; in the second Mr. Greaves and Miss Adair; in the third Mr. and Mrs. Groves: and in the last were some neighbouring gentlemen, who begged permission to attend. Her own carriage followed; and the villagers closed the scene: the old dressed in mourning, and the young in white. Thus they slowly proceeded to the church, which was near a mile from the Hall, when, as soon as the coffin was taken out of the hearse, and the pall thrown over it (supported by six young girls appointed

ed to wait) they were met by the Doctor and Parson Ellis. Six choristers were sent for from the cathedral of ———, who chaunted the first part of the funeral service till they got into the church; and after the remaining part was over, Parson Ellis, with tears, gave an elegant oration on the many virtues his deceased friend possessed when living; then, after a solemn anthem, departed in the same order to the Hall, where Maria ordered a small gratuity to the poor people who attended.

Mr. Ellis staid near a month. The melancholy of Maria still prevailing, she was persuaded by Mr. Greaves and Mr. Hillyard to accompany the Parson to W——n. This she assented to, as she longed to pour her sorrows into the bosom of Mrs. Brooks, who was the only esteemed friend she had left. They set out for the Parsonage, where they were met by her in deep mourning for her husband's

husband's father, who lately had died suddenly, as he was at dinner.

This melancholy meeting drew tears from the whole family, especially the good Parson, who charged his daughter, as he should soon sink into the grave, and her fortune was now far superior to whatever she could have expected, never to forget those principles that she had been brought up in ; then she would appear as beauteous in death as her departed friend. Mrs. Brooks, with tears replied, that she never would, and knew not the reason he had for giving her such a precaution. The Parson said, he had observed her negligent in visiting the poor, as she formerly did. She acknowledged this, saying, her father-in-law had been much displeased at it, and her husband had begged her to desist ; but as the cause was now removed, and as her name was once Ellis, she hoped never to forget it in that of Brooks. The good Parson kissed her, and, bidding her dry her tears, said,  
 “ He



“ He flattered himself, she would always  
 “ remember her duty to her God, who  
 “ had, with his blessed protection, and by  
 “ his divine providence, so unexpectedly  
 “ raised them.”

Maria now waited on Mrs. Brooks to the Manor House, where she intended to reside till the approach of the ensuing summer, and receiving a letter from Mr. Hillyard, (who was left in the care of White Hall) informing her of every thing being well, with one inclosed from Miss Adair, who went to London a few days after the funeral, saying she would shortly visit her at that place.

She now indulged herself in her favourite walks, and as that part of the country was very romantic, frequently strolled two or three miles from the Manor House, and when fatigued, amused herself in some retired spot with a book, till she was sufficiently recovered. One day, being near the castle, she retired

to

to the chapel belonging to it, and sitting down on the remains of an old monument, she took out from her pocket Harvey's Meditations, and began to read the following epitaph :

"How lov'd, how valued once, avails thee not,

"To whom related, or by whom begot."

&c.

This bringing fresh to her mind her much-loved Louisa, who had so often visited that place with her, she melted into tears, when she was surprised by the good Parson and Mr. Greaves; the Parson mildly reprov'd her for seeking such places to indulge her grief in, adding, she was highly reprehensible in repining at the will of the Almighty, and repaying his goodness with tears and murmuring. Mr. Greaves now informed her he had been in the country on some particular business, but not finding her returned to White Hall, had taken the liberty of calling at the Parsonage, and Mr. Ellis had brought him

him to the Manor House, when Mrs. Brooks directed them to the Castle, as the most likely place to meet with her.

## C H A P. VIII.

MARIA was totally unacquainted with the disposition of Mr. Greaves, and as the very name inspired her with veneration for the person who bore it, she looked upon this visit as an inestimable favour.

She was now entered into her eighteenth year, tall and genteel in person, rather inclining to the *embonpoint*, but, from frequent heavy misfortunes in the loss of those she held most dear, delicate. She earnestly entreated Mr. Greaves to spend a few days with Mr. Ellis at the Parsonage, which he readily complied with.

A few weeks had elapsed when Maria thought of returning to White Hall; she was precipitated to this by the cool behaviour of Mr. Brooks, who watched  
all



all her actions with a jealous eye, scarce permitting his wife to spend an hour with her, when he was not present. She quickly saw this sudden change in her husband, but could by no means account for it, and asking the reason, he replied, he never gave any, and charged her not to invite Maria again to the Manor House. Mrs. Brooks was so much hurt at this reply, that she could not forbear shedding tears, but recollecting herself, asked him, if she was to tell her so; to this he was silent, and sullenly quitted the room.

Maria now returned to the Parsonage, where she intended staying a few days before she set out for White Hall. Here she was visited by Mrs. Brooks, who with tears, related the conversation that had passed, and the orders that her husband had given her, begging whenever she wrote, to direct it to the Parsonage, where it would be taken care of, as he had lately broke open all her letters

letters before she saw them, at the same time, requesting she would not acquaint her father, as it might cause a confusion, in which he was liable to be the greatest sufferer.

Maria, amazed, assured her friend, had she known what an unwelcome visiter she had been, she would not have intruded. “And, as for your happiness, Mrs. Brooks,” she continued, “depend upon it, you shall never more be disturbed on my account, and if I have innocently occasioned it, any reparation in my power I would willingly make to restore it.”

Mrs. Brooks embraced Maria, assuring her, that nothing in this life could make amends for the loss of her friendship, and kissing her hands, declared she could not be happy without her forgiveness. Maria, whose tender heart could never withstand a sollicitation, solemnly protested, she had not offended her, but there was a meanness in private correspond-

respondence she could not submit to; declaring, she should be happy to hear from her every opportunity, but she must excuse any answer to her letters.

After this declaration, they separated with heavy hearts, Maria lamenting she had lost the pleasure of corresponding with a much-esteemed friend, while Mrs. Brooks, provoked at the cruel behaviour of her husband, deplored her own unhappy situation, but durst not complain.

The Parson being gone to visit a sick person, and Mrs. Ellis assisting in preparing dinner, Maria, to divert her thoughts, walked to her favourite seat at the top of the grove, and was admiring the fine prospects, when Mr. Greaves came to the place; he had been riding the whole of the morning, and had not seen her that day: he sat down, and cantering her upon her retired humour, balled her his fair moralist. But perceiving she had been crying, inquired the cause, which she briefly related,

lated, only requested that it might not be mentioned to Mr. or Mrs. Ellis, as Mrs. Brooks had begged it.

He lifted up his hands, declaring, it was of consequence, as she was a very young lady, and the least behaviour that carried with it an air of mystery, was an imputation on her character, which he declared he would never suffer, whilst he was able to lift his arm or fire a pistol.

Maria bursting into tears, thanked him for his friendship, and wished he would let the matter rest, as she was perfectly assured there was no harm meant, as it might be occasioned by the same motives in Mr. Brooks, that his father inherited, (covetousness) for she had often seen him look displeased at her inviting his wife to accompany her on the visits she made to the poor.

Greaves now insisted on being her champion, only promising it should be done without the knowledge of Parson Ellis, and taking his leave, immediately



set out for the Manor House. Sending in his name, he was desired to walk into the parlour, where Mr. and Mrs. Brooks rose to receive him ; Mrs. Brooks curtsying retired.

Mr. Greaves entered upon the business that brought him there, observing, the ladies had been long friends, and a cause there must be for a difference, which he desired an explanation for, and as he esteemed Miss Brooks's character equal to that of his sister's, he could not permit it to remain a mystery, as it appeared to him.

After a little hesitation, Mr. Brooks replied, that if Maria could afford to give away her income, he could not. She had frequently drawn his wife into great extravagancies, and all his remonstrances were useless, while Miss Brooks remained in his house ; he had therefore thought proper to forbid any future connections of the sort, as his wife was far advanced in her pregnancy, and very likely

likely might have a family of her own, which it was his duty to provide for in preference to the *village poor*.

These sentiments were too similar to Mr. Greaves's own not to meet with his approbation, and he readily agreed that Mr. Brooks was much in the right to consider himself before any other person; adding, if money was to be thrown away, at least, there ought to be some pleasure accruing from it. "As for my part," said he, "I hate to see such *poor devils*; but to be sure, Miss Brooks has a large fortune, and does not regard money."

"She has a very large fortune," Brooks replied; "but if justice had taken place, I think it ought to have been bestowed upon the right heir."

Greaves, with a sigh, answered, he did not envy her his cousin's estate, he only wished she might not squander it away; and he valued her friendship too much

thwart her inclination, if he had the power.

“Aye,” interrupted Brooks, “she may  
 “thank God and good friends; and I  
 “say once again, she ought not to be in  
 “the possession of it, while you are  
 “alive. But, if I was in your place, I  
 “would try to persuade her to marry  
 “me.”

Although these sentiments exactly suited Greaves, yet his natural hypocrisy got the better of his wishes to avow them; he coolly answered, that no mortal could behold Maria without coveting her amiable person, yet the fear of giving displeasure, kept him from addressing her on the subject, nor could he be angry at his wishing Mrs. Brooks to break off her acquaintance with Maria.

Mrs. Brooks's maid, who had heard her master and mistress wrangling about Miss Brooks, and though she had listened very attentively, could not find out the reason, no sooner saw Mr. Greaves arrive,

arrive, than she slipped into a small parlour, thinly partitioned from the one they commonly sat in, and laying her ear to the wainscot, was all attention to discover what did not in the least concern her, and heard the first part of the discourse, which she comprehended very well, till Mr. Greaves came to the word *mystery*. This was Greek to Mrs. Susan, though she had been seven years *learning* to read and make *shifts* and shirts, and was esteemed a miracle of learning in the kitchen, and knew the meaning of *obstropolous* and *rumboftical*, with many other words equally *grammatical*, yet had never heard such a word as *that there*, was sure there was some terrible *plot* in it; so setting herself again to find out the remainder of this secret, she heard Mr. Greaves say *squander*, and would not *thwart* her inclination, if he had the power; was so fully satisfied of their disagreement, that she hastened to the kitchen, and with an air of importance began to consider which



of the servants she should apply to for the solution of this *odd* word, when the cook happening to pass by in a hurry, trod upon her apron, and tore it.—“Lard,” cried she, “you are so full of your *mysteries* that you can’t perceive your betters.”—“Better ! quotha,” replied Dorothy, “what care I for Mr. *Reas* ? Let every body mind their own business ; if he was here, I would tell him as how I think myself as good as he.”

Susan was confounded at her own want of understanding, as nothing was easier to her than discovering what she had taken for a very learned word, was no other than *Mr. Reas*, their *butter-man*, whom she had often seen stare at her mistress and Miss Brooks when he met them, and who, she very *sagaciously* concluded, Miss Brooks had fallen in love with, and was going to be married to him. This, in her opinion, was a secret of the greatest consequence, “and, therefore, she could  
“ not

“not keep it;” but, looking round, said, “Well, I find great folks have their likings and whims as well as little folks; but it is a great secret, and *no-body* was thought proper to be *entrusted* with it but me.”

“O, yes,” cried one of the footmen winking to another, “I dare say it is a *very great secret*, so pray keep it, for we don’t want to hear it.”

This was another disappointment to Mrs. Sufan, for she had it in imagination to raise their curiosity, and then to have left them to guess what it was; but failing in this, she was the more eager to reveal it.—“Why, to be sure,” she cried, “every body must know it in time, and, I suppose, the licence is taken out already.”

“What licence?” cried the cook.

“Why, Miss Brooks—with—but it was told me as a very great secret.”

“Pray, keep it then,” cried the footman.

Mrs. Susan went on—"Why, of all  
 " persons on the earth she has chosen—  
 " ha ! ha ! ha !—what I would turn my  
 " nose up at—Mr. *Reas*, our butter-man !  
 " Well, well, what will this world come  
 " to at last ?"

"As for that," replied one of the  
 house-maids, to whom Mr. *Reas* had  
 been formerly an humble admirer, "if  
 " *so be* what you say is true, thoff I don't  
 " believe one word on't, yet you needn't  
 " say *as how* your nose has been turn'd  
 " up at him, for he is your betters any  
 " day in the week, and twice as good  
 " on Sundays ; and thoff his trade be a  
 " walking one, he earns good clean mo-  
 " ney, and that's more than any fine  
 " madam of a lady's maid can say."

"Marry come up, Ma'am," replied  
 Susan, "and where have you learned  
 " your airs, you *mop squeegee* ? How  
 " dare you to take upon yourself to talk  
 " to a gentlewoman ; but I shall not  
 " *expen*ce with your impudence, who  
 " was

“ was nothing more than a parish girl,  
 “ and so give me none of your *conserta-*  
 “ *tion.*”

“ *Consertation*\* yourself, you flut,”  
 cried the other, “ how dare you call me  
 “ parish girl ?” Snatching up a bason of  
 eggs, which the cook had been beating  
 to mix for a pudding, threw them in  
 Mrs. Susan’s face, who ran screaming out  
 of the kitchen, leaving her antagonist to  
 exult in her victory, to the no small satis-  
 faction of the rest of the servants, who  
 one and all cordially hated her, for being  
 what they called a newsmonger, and a  
 mischief-maker ; but if she was defeated  
 in her expectations of gaining belief at  
 home, she succeeded better in the vil-  
 lage, where all who heard it lifted up  
 their eyes, and blessed themselves.

\* *CONCITATION*, stirring up or disturbing,  
 noise, &c.



## CHAP. IX.

MR. Greaves returned to the Parsonage just as the family were assembled to dinner; and as Miss Brooks desired him not to let Mr. Ellis know the reason of his visit to the Manor House, he was silent till it was over; he then proposed walking in the garden—when, after some hesitation, began the conversation he pretended had passed between Mr. Brooks and him.

“When I first arrived,” said he, “on mentioning your name, and declaring my dissatisfaction at his mysterious behaviour, he replied, in a most unpleasant manner, that he would appeal to me, if *you* was proper company for his wife.”

“Sir!” interrupted Maria, blushing.

“Why,

“ Why, Miss,” continued Greaves,  
 “ he ran on in the most impertinent man-  
 “ ner, till I informed him I came to vin-  
 “ dicate your character, and not to hear  
 “ it asperfed.”

“ I am much oblig’d to you, Sir ;  
 “ but, till this moment, I was a total  
 “ ftranger to its wanting any.”

“ Alas ! my dear Miss,” replied he,  
 “ you are not acquainted with the world  
 “ you live in ; an angel from heaven  
 “ could not efcape the envenomed  
 “ tongues of thofe, whose whole ftudies  
 “ are to wound reputations, and Mr.  
 “ Brooks is one ; but finding I was not  
 “ to be trifled with, moft artfully gave  
 “ his chief reafon, which was, that his  
 “ fortune not being fo large as your’s, he  
 “ did not wifh his wife to take you as a  
 “ pattern of her benevolence.”

“ I declare, Sir,” interrupted Maria,  
 “ your intelligence has made me truly  
 “ unhappy ; and I half repent my pro-  
 “ mife to Mrs. Brooks, that I have it

“ not in my power to acquaint her father.”

“ As you have a great respect for your amiable friend, who is almost broken-hearted at her husband’s unjust behaviour, you will certainly adhere to it, as the only means of not rendering her more unhappy than she really is ; and rest assured, my dear Miss Brooks, that no man never yet drew breath who shall cast a reflection upon a reputation I esteem as a sister’s ; and since your feelings are so much hurt, by Heaven’s ! his blood shall atone for his insolence, let the consequences be what they may.”

Maria, alarmed at this resolution, with tears entreated him not to enter into any dispute with Mr. Brooks upon her account ; much injured as she was, her innocence would always support her against such malevolence, and as she was to quit the place in a few days, she would strive to forget it.

Greaves

Greaves protested, that nothing but her happiness should deter him from punishing such a wretch ; but as she was so averse to it, he would stifle his resentment, upon a promise of permitting him to accompany her wherever she went.

She saw not through this plan of his, but conceiving it arose entirely from respect, complied.

Parson Ellis, who knew as little of Greaves's vicious turn of mind as herself, looked upon him as a gentleman of the strictest probity and honour, frequently praised him to Maria, telling her, if he should die before she was of age, to chuse him for her guardian, while she, who revered the Parson as a father, promised.

Maria now took leave of the good family at the Parsonage, and set out for White Hall ; and as the great road lay near the Manor House, could not forbear



bear looking at it as she passed. Mrs. Brooks, who was standing at the window, saw her; Maria, letting down the glass of the carriage, waved her handkerchief, and dropped tears “sacred to friendship.”

As she had a great aversion to sleeping on the road, she travelled post, and just at the approach of evening reached the last stage, when finding herself rather fatigued, alighted to drink coffee while her horses were changing. The house was full of company, and seeing a pleasant garden with some arbours in it, she desired her servant to bring it there, as she did not chuse to mix with strangers. She had scarcely finished her slight repast, when an old gentleman in the house came out, and moving his hat, walked into the same arbour, and looking attentively at her, said, “God bless you, young lady.”

“Thank you, Sir,” said she, with a smile.

“Miss,”

“ Miss,” returned the old man, “ you  
“ are very rich, and I am a poor forlorn  
“ traveller in a strange country, and have  
“ no means of returning home.”

“ How far are you going ?” said she.

“ To France, Madam.”

“ That is a great way ; have you no  
“ friends ?”

“ None, Miss, that are able to serve  
“ me.”

“ No !” putting her hand into her pocket, and taking out five guineas ; but recollecting that travelling was expensive, and he at a considerable distance from his native home, took out of her pocket-book a ten-pound note, and slipped it into his hand. While he stood lifting up his eyes to heaven, first looking at her and then at the note, she, embracing the moment of his surprise to get away without thanks, which to liberal minds are always unpleasant, hastily stepped into her carriage, bowing to the old man, who taking off his hat,  
and

and displaying his silver locks, returned it to the ground ; the chaise driving off with great speed, in less than three hours arrived at White Hall.

She was entirely settled, and did not intend to visit the Parsonage any more, but kept up a constant correspondence with Mr. Ellis, who, from frequent attacks of the gout, was incapable of visiting her, often regretting he could not persuade her to come to see him, and requesting to be indulged with the reason for her declining it ; but Maria, considering a promise once given should be inviolably kept, amused him with trifling excuses.

She now turned her thoughts on a scheme of Mr. Hillyard's appropriating four hundred pounds a year towards maintaining and educating a number of poor children of both sexes, who, at proper ages, were to be apprenticed to trades best suitable to their ideas. A decayed clergyman, whose moral character would

bear the strictest inquiry, was appointed preceptor to the boys, and a governess who had been well brought up to instruct the girls in useful needle-work. A large house, then unoccupied, was fixed on by Mr. Hillyard, with a grass field at the back for a play ground, and printed handbills were dispersed, giving notice, that such children who were proper objects would be received; and in less than a month, more than thirty poor orphans were settled in this seminary, and beds prepared for as many more.

This benevolent institution was the topic of the whole country, and quickly reached the ears of Parson Ellis, who wrote a long letter to Maria, congratulating her on the mode she had adopted, to rescue numbers of her fellow creatures from destruction; charging her to see, that the children entrusted to their care answered the intentions of the founders, condemning country charity schools, whose trustees too often abused the confidence



fidence reposed in them, by vesting the office of governor in persons totally unfit, many of whom are scarce able to read or write three syllables of common English; and lamenting, that age and infirmities crept so fast upon him, that he could not pay his respects at White Hall that time of the year; but as soon as the season changed, promised to give himself that pleasure, informing her Mrs. Brooks had a little stranger in her family, a daughter, who at his request was named Maria; and paying some compliments to Mr. Hillyard, concluded with praying God to bless and preserve her.

Maria received this letter while at breakfast, and shewing it to Mr. Hillyard, he extolled the good Parson, calling him a valuable friend, and an estimable jewel; saying, he should count the time long till he arrived, expressing much regret at not being made acquainted with the virtues of this good man when he saw him at the funeral of Louisa;

“ For,”

“ For,” said he, “ I have known many  
 “ clergymen of the most abandoned  
 “ principles, under the veil of religion,  
 “ procure themselves to be inrolled as  
 “ acting magistrates in the commission of  
 “ the peace, which, in my opinion, is  
 “ very wrong, as it gives them an addi-  
 “ tional authority to that which they be-  
 “ fore enjoyed as priests, (which is alrea-  
 “ dy, in many instances, too extensive)  
 “ as they preach that mercy they seldom  
 “ or ever practise,\* and are as fond of  
 “ being

\* Of this the *good Doctor*, mentioned in the First Volume, has given a striking proof, which I shall here relate. A poor girl of his village was pregnant; the father absconding she applied for relief, when his merciful *Worship*, the Rector, threatened to send her to Bridewell, which he certainly would have done, had he not been restrained by some gentlemen who possessed more humanity. At last this poor unfortunate was placed in a miserable hut, and delivered of a female infant, which, by his order, was taken from her. In a few days after her allowance was stopped; but the poor people where she resided during her lying-in, gave her part of their scanty pittance, and her constitution being strong, she soon recovered her health  
 and

“ being conspicuous as some new created  
 “ lords are of their titles, which, in the  
 “ present state of things, carry very little  
 “ respect,

and strength, and went again to service at the farmhouse she lived at before. But this *pious magistrate* would not let her rest; and out of three pounds a-year wages, insisted upon her contributing one shilling weekly towards the maintenance of her child, which she readily complied with, and paid the money every quarter as she received it. What remained not being sufficient to procure her necessaries, she was nearly reduced to a state of beggary, when the family she lived with advised her to get a place in some retired part of the country, and as she was an industrious, good servant, would soon get cloaths again. Her mistress, who was a motherly woman, procured her one near twenty miles distant, and charitably paid her fare on the outside of the coach, promising to let her know of the welfare of her child every opportunity. After it was discovered she was gone, this *upright man* threatened vengeance to the poor farmer and his wife, for suffering her to depart without his knowledge, declaring he would go to law with them. But his threats were of no avail; the girl kept her place for twelve months, when by some means he found out her retreat, and dispatched a constable with a warrant to bring her before him, which was immediately done, when she was sent to Bridewell, for running away and leaving the child chargeable to the parish, where she  
 fell

“ respect, and are foils only to our ancient nobility.

“ Of this error the late good and great Earl of Orford was so well apprized, that he never appointed a clergyman to that office, without being acquainted with his moral character; and, I believe, there are fewer *clerical Justices* in the county of N—— than in any other. But I must not omit informing you,” continued he, “ of the many virtues he was endowed with. He was a nobleman in the strictest sense, if a humane and benevolent heart has any claim to that title. Living, he was the *noblest work of God*, and he immortalized his name by his deeds, which will ever be revered, as long as a generous patron, a sincere friend,

fell into bad company, which destroyed all her remaining inclination to virtue, and being afraid to return to the village, became a wretched prostitute, and in a very few years sunk into her grave, loaded with disease and misery.

“ and



“ and a real well-wisher to his country,  
 “ are names worthy of record. But this  
 “ Miniature has been already elegantly  
 “ described by that ornament to society,  
 “ ingenious author, and promoter of  
 “ arts, A. Y. Esq.

“ And I think,” continued Mr. Hill-  
 yard, “ if every one was to take exam-  
 “ ple by him, the many cruelties would  
 “ not be practised that daily are by a set  
 “ of men, who exercise their tyranny on  
 “ those unfortunate people whose poverty  
 “ oblige them to bear with it ; and such  
 “ distaste have I to justiciary parsons, that  
 “ I never seek any acquaintance with them  
 “ without a thorough knowledge of their  
 “ principles.”

Maria observed, there was no rule  
 without an exception ; and, though Mr.  
 Ellis had been lately appointed, he was  
 a good man, and deserving every enco-  
 mium she could bestow—“ Yet, Sir, I  
 “ trust there are many as good as he,  
 “ though

“ though we have not the pleasure of  
“ being acquainted with them.”

“ God blefs you, my dear,” he fighed,  
“ you are unacquainted with the world,  
“ and long may you continue in your  
“ Elyfian abode among your happy te-  
“ nants, where you, like the genial fun,  
“ nourifh them, and may your heart ne-  
“ ver be wounded by the corroding cares  
“ of the world. Should you ever tafte  
“ the bitter cup of adverfity, avoid de-  
“ fpair, and rely on your Creator, for he  
“ is the only true friend to the afflicted;  
“ nor ever, my dear Maria, feek his hea-  
“ vier difpleafure in wifhing death ; for,  
“ though the grave is the haven of reft,  
“ and the path to immortality, yet under  
“ our fufferings, fo frail is human nature,  
“ that in wifhing to be delivered from evil  
“ we fall into blasphemy, and cry with  
“ the utmoft impatience, Oh, that I was  
“ laid in my grave ! How much plea-  
“ fanter, with a fubmiffive heart, to fay,  
“ Oh,

“ Oh God, I am thy servant, do with me  
“ as thou thinkest most proper !”

Maria assured him that she should never forget his precepts, which were consonant to her own, as she considered it the height of impiety to provoke the Almighty by repining at his decrees.

## C H A P. X.

THE return of Spring brought letters from Mr. Greaves and Miss Adair. She had been at Southampton with an aunt, and had wrote word, that she had been in continual hurry since her departure from White Hall, and longed to enjoy the company of Miss Brooks and Mr. Hillyard again. Mr. Greaves informed them he had been confined to his room by a violent fit of sickness, and would, with her permission, reside a few weeks at the Hall, as his doctors had advised him to try the country air.

The school was now perfectly established, and Maria received an account from Mrs. Brooks with the mournful tidings of the death of her father, begging Maria to forgive her omission of correspondence, as her husband's ill temper



increased every day, and had refused to let her mother reside at the Manor House, assuring her it was not in her power to discover the cause of this alteration in his disposition, which (once the most amiable) was now become quite the reverse. He had discharged half his servants, and laid down his carriage, often cursing her departed father for not leaving his fortune entirely to him.

“Peace to his departed shade,” cried Maria, (the tears streaming down her cheeks) as she read the last sentence; “while living, his soul was congenial to the hand that formed it, and now it has shaken off its grossest particles, is far beyond the regions of the sun, and regenerated among angels. May flowers perpetually blossom on the grave that contains his precious body, for he was a true friend to the wretched!”

She was interrupted by Mr. Hillyard, who entered with two young children he had bought of a gipsy he had met. Too  
much

much elated with his purchase to observe the distress of Maria, he pushed both before him into the room, crying, "See what I have brought you.—They are jewels saved from the brink of perdition, and their future goodness will wash away your sins. Look, look, why don't you observe them?"

At this summons Maria turned her head, and the children, by Mr. Hilliard's order, went up to her. "Where did you bring them from?" said she.

"I bought them of their mother," he answered.

"And can a mother sell her children?"

"But she was not my mama," cried the eldest, (a boy about seven years old),

"My mama is as fine a lady as you."

"Where does your mama live?" said Maria.

"I don't know," replied the child;  
"but she lived in a fine house, and my

“other mama told me, she gave me to  
“ her because I was naughty.”

“ Poor little innocent,” said Maria, “ I  
“ suppose they were stolen by the crea-  
“ ture you purchased them of.”

“ Too true,” he replied ; “ but if they  
“ had not, I should have got them all  
“ the same ; for such wretches are divest-  
“ ed of every humane feeling.”

“ Ah !” sighed Maria, “ I will take  
“ care of them ; the boy shall stay in this  
“ place till I can discover his parents,  
“ the girl shall be carried to the school,  
“ and educated with the rest of the chil-  
“ dren.”

This no sooner escaped her lips than he  
fell a crying, and, running up to the  
girl, flung his arms round her neck, and  
said, he would go with his sister.

Mr. Hillyard now inquired his name,  
which he said was Edward, but could  
give them no farther intelligence.

A room

A room was ordered by Maria, and a servant appointed to attend them, while Mr. Hillyard sent descriptive advertisements to the different papers. She now acquainted him with the melancholy news she had received from the Manor House, and begged his acceptance of her guardianship, which he declined, as he had heard her say that Parson Ellis wished Mr. Greaves to succeed him in case of his death; and as he was shortly expected at the Hall, then, if his health did not permit him, he would.

Maria's tenderness now got the better of her former determination, and she answered Mrs. Brooks's letter, condoling with her on the irreparable loss she had sustained in the death of her father, and lamenting their hard fortune in being deprived of a mutual correspondence, assuring her, she should ever preserve the most inviolable affection for her: this she inclosed in one to her mother.



A few days after Mr. Greaves arrived, so much impaired in his health, that he was obliged to be supported by his servant into the house. Maria, who was much affected at seeing him so reduced, said, she flattered herself the air would soon restore him; adding, she had often heard him say he loved the company of children, she had two since their last parting that Mr. Hillyard had been kind enough to purchase for her.

Mr. Greaves smiled at this account, and requested to know where such bargains were to be sold. Mr. Hillyard informed him, one day as he was returning from the school, he saw a woman with two children on the road, the youngest she was beating in the most cruel manner, whilst the eldest stood by crying. Shocked with her inhumanity, he desired to know what the child had done to deserve such severe correction.

She

She replied, that the obstinate little devil would not walk a step, and that she would leave her in some ditch or another.

“ Will you sell her ?” said Mr. Hill-yard.

“ Aye, that I wou’d, for a guinea I’ll  
“ sell them both.”—“ Then I will give  
“ you five for them,” said he, and count-  
ed the money into her hands.

She instantly ran away with the golden prize, crying, “ Take them,” and left the children, when the boy taking the girl by the hand, went quietly up to him, and he brought them to the Hall.

At Mr. Greaves’s desire a servant fetched them to the parlour, and the boy running up to Maria, attempted to fling his arms round her waist, and laying his head in her lap, called her his new lady mama.

“ Oh, my God !” cried Mr. Greaves,  
“ these are the children of an intimate  
“ friend of mine, and were stole from

“ their own door one evening through  
 “ the carelessness of a servant, who, in-  
 “ stead of minding them, was gossiping  
 “ with a cottager she knew, and they  
 “ getting out of sight, were carried away  
 “ by some gipsies several miles before  
 “ they were missed ; and, though adver-  
 “ tised in every paper, not the least in-  
 “ telligence could be gained. They have  
 “ no father, and their mother has been  
 “ distracted ever since.”

“ Thank God !” cried Mr. Hillyard,  
 “ who has made me instrumental in re-  
 “ storing her to happiness, for I will de-  
 “ liver them to her with my own hands.”

Mr. Greaves much opposed his atten-  
 ding them, saying, a trusty servant was  
 sufficient ; but this had no effect upon  
 the old gentleman, who declared, no per-  
 son should receive them from his hands  
 but the mother, and insisted upon his  
 giving him her address.

This was reluctantly complied with by  
 Mr. Greaves, who desired him to stay  
 till

till he had first wrote, and not by his over zeal deprive them of a parent he wished to restore them to.

As this was approved of by Maria, Mr. Hillyard agreed to wait till Mr. Greaves had received an answer. The children, after being saluted by Mr. Greaves, were taken back to their apartment; he being in much better spirits than when he arrived, was led up to his room, where he wrote to their mother; and in less than a week Miss Brooks received the following note:

“ MADAM,

“ I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Greaves, an intimate friend of my late husband's, wherein he informs me, that a gentleman of the name of Hillyard had seen two children that answered the description of mine, who were stolen about four months since by some gipsies. I should, Madam, have waited on you in person but have been confined to my

H 5

“ room



“ room ever since the loss of my dear  
 “ babes ; and as I am very unable to  
 “ write, have taken the liberty of inclo-  
 “ sing the copy of the advertisement  
 “ which I inserted in the newspapers,  
 “ and if they answer the description they  
 “ are mine ; but a servant will reach  
 “ White Hall as soon as this, and if your  
 “ goodness will direct him to the place  
 “ where they are to be seen, you will  
 “ confer an everlasting obligation on,

“ Madam,

“ your devoted

“ humble servant,

“ JANE MORRIS.”

The servant of Mrs. Morris arrived,  
 and little Edward knew him the moment  
 he saw him, calling him by his name,  
 and told him he would stay with his new  
 mama, who would not give him away to  
 the beggars.

The man was dismissed with an an-  
 swer from Maria to his mistress, to let her  
 know

know that her children would be with her in a few days; and directly after Mr. Hillyard set off with them for Hampstead (the mother's place of residence.) Mrs. Morris's joy at seeing her children again was little short of distraction; she embraced Mr. Hillyard and her little ones by turns, calling him their saviour and protector, while the boy innocently inquired, if she would give him to the beggars again. Mr. Hillyard staid three days, and on his return to White Hall found Mr. Greaves just come from Elnford, where he had gone the day after he wrote to Mrs. Morris, much attended in his health, which he attributed to change of air.

Mr. Greaves now accepted the office of trustee to Maria's fortune, greatly applauding every thing she had done, especially her school, which would be, he said, an everlasting monument of her goodness, and complimented Mr. Hillyard for bestowing so much of his time in

seeing justice done to the children, assuring him he would willingly ease him of part of the trouble.

Mr. Hillyard heard this declaration with pleasure, and attributed this change to his long illness, believing it impossible for a man to lay upon his sick-bed without reflecting on his past life; and, though he was not fully acquainted with his character, yet he knew enough to be thoroughly satisfied he ought to repent. He was happy at this change, and readily accepted his offer.

Their time was now divided in visiting the school and the village; and the former was the admiration of the whole county, bringing many travellers to see the generous foundress, "who though so young, so good."

Miss Adair now visited White Hall, but not like her former self, she seemed quite to have forgot her brother and her deceased friend Louisa. Wherever she  
had

had been, her mind was contaminated with pride, the acquisition of her fortune had led her into every extravagance; her dress was the standard of fashion; her smile or approbation of a cap was enough to bring a milliner into vogue, and ensure her reputation for ever; a frown was a dead warrant, and the *creature* wanted taste if Miss Adair did not approve. As her person was extremely elegant, she was the idol of flattery, which crept insensibly into her mind, and poisoned every good quality she possessed. Her toilet was her greatest pride, and the fine bloom of her complexion intirely destroyed by rouge, while her graceful form was contracted by a forbidding haughtiness, and a stiffness of opinion made her a disagreeable companion. She was continually forming parties of pleasure; and wondered what amusement Miss Brooks could find in devoting her time to such a parcel of poor villagers, and lamented a fortune like  
her's



her's should be buried in vulgar obscurity.

Mr. Hillyard did not fail giving this young lady some of his lectures on her behaviour; but Miss Adair told him such musty morals were unpleasant to her, and if he continued them, she should certainly be obliged to leave the Hall, though she came there for the purpose of retirement for a few months.

He thanked her for her *polite* declaration, and in his blunt manner said, since she was so full of herself, he would advise her to go where the inhabitants were more of her opinion.

This was too much for the high spirit of Miss Adair, she burst into tears, and replied, had her brother been alive, he would not suffer her to be insulted.

“ Oh !” cried he, “ I thought, by the late alteration in your conduct, you had entirely forgot him ; whether you have or no, I cannot say ; but every person  
“ who

“ who formerly knew you, will, I dare  
 “ say, agree with me, you have forgot  
 “ *yourself.*”

“ Well, Sir, you shall remember me  
 “ when you see me here again ;” and ordering her carriage, instantly set off for London, leaving a note for Miss Brooks with her waiting-maid, who staid behind to pack up her things, as she found her consequence too much hurt to remain till they were ready, in which she exhibited great complaints against Mr. Hillyard, who she positively affirmed bid her get out of the house, and assured her she would never revisit the Hall while he remained there.

As Maria had great reason to be displeased with her imperious behaviour, yet she could not believe Mr. Hillyard would be guilty of such ill manners as to bid her get out of the house, applied to Mr. Greaves, who was present when the dispute happened, who declared Mr. Hillyard had in no respect deviated from the  
 gentle-

gentleman ; and as Miss Adair was well acquainted with his singular character, in his opinion it was highly ridiculous in her to take any offence at what he said.

Maria agreed with him ; when Miss Adair's woman, who had got every thing in readiness, and had a chaise in waiting for her, desired to know if the note required any answer. She wrote a short one, and requested her return to the Hall, and blamed her for leaving it so abruptly, or taking offence at Mr. Hillyard, whose singularities she so well knew.

Whether this was too submissive or not, I cannot determine, but from that time Miss Adair dropped all correspondence with Maria. The return of winter confined them in long evenings to the Hall ; but no weather could confine Mr. Hillyard, who was continually in search of adventures ; and as Mr. Greaves seldom chose to go abroad, Miss Brooks saw she was under the necessity of taking a companion to reside with her, and  
pitched

pitched on an elderly lady in the village, who was the widow of an officer, and had little more than her pension to subsist on.

The name of this lady was Linton. She had been politely educated, and possessed a fine understanding, which was greatly improved by a thorough knowledge of the world; in the early part of life she had been in the gay circle, and tasted all the pleasures that beauty, health, and fortune could command, when a war breaking out, her husband was ordered with his regiment to Jamaica, and had nearly completed his voyage, when the ship was attacked by three Barbary corsairs, who took them. Captain Linton was three years in slavery before he had an opportunity of letting his wife know his dreadful situation, and the money demanded for his ransom amounted to their whole fortune, which she immediately raised, and joyfully remitted. But the hardships this unhappy gentleman endured



endured in slavery rendered him unable to bear the fatigue of his voyage, which was a tedious one, and he died just as he had got sight of his native shore, leaving his wife a poor bankrupt in an unfeeling world.

Unwilling to discover her poverty, Mrs. Linton sold her furniture and plate by degrees, till her house was nearly stripped, and her servant, who saw she should not keep her place much longer, thought herself under no necessity of concealing her mistress's affairs, but on the other hand exposed them wherever she went.

This no sooner reached the ears of Mrs. Linton's acquaintance, than they dropped off, and, of all her numerous friends, she had not one left to assist her in the hour of distress. She sold the remainder of her furniture, and applying for a pension, through the interest of a great good man, at that time at the head of affairs, she obtained thirty pounds a year,

year, and retiring to this village, by the dint of industry at her needle, she supported herself in a genteel manner; and as Maria had often visited her, she was pleased with her behaviour, which was modest, though not servile! always prepossessing her visitants in her favour.

This lady Maria sent for, and opening her situation without reserve, proposed to allow her one hundred pounds a year as her companion. This offer was eagerly embraced, and in ten days Mrs. Linton was settled at the Hall. She was a great lover of music, and played on several instruments; and though Maria had a thorough knowledge of that science, yet she was not so great a proficient as Mrs. Linton, whose taste and execution astonished all that heard her.

Mr. Greaves now became as musical as the ladies, and always attended their little concerts, and taking these opportunities of being so near the person of Maria, declared his passion in the most delicate

cate manner, saying, he had long silently admired her virtues, and could never be happy without her; and, to make sure of success, begged Mr. Hillyard to intercede with her, as she had not given him any hopes upon his declaration.

Mr. Hillyard was well pleased with the idea of this match, as he thought Mr. Greaves as good as he pretended to be; and he took the first convenient time he could of pleading his cause, but was coolly answered by Maria, that she had not the least inclination to change her situation.

As this appeared to be her definitive answer, Mr. Greaves became dejected, he lost his appetite, and grew pale, and, after languishing about a month, was unable to leave his chamber, and, sending for Mr. Hillyard, ordered the servant to withdraw, and informed him, that as he was unable to gain the object of his wishes, life was indifferent to him; but as Miss Brooks had an aver-

sion.

tion to his person, hoped she had not to the name of Greaves, and requested him to be one of the witnesses to his will, in which he had left her his whole fortune on that condition, declaring he should be miserable if she did not consent.

The doctor who attended him was of opinion, that whatever his indisposition was, it would settle in a decline. Maria lamented his illness; the accounts of his continual sufferings awakened her pity; she was much alarmed at the idea of his death being occasioned by his affection for her, and assured him by Mr. Hillyard, that if he did not mean to make her for ever miserable, he would try to recover.

This message was carried up to Greaves, which he received with all the extravagance of joy; and, calling for pen and ink, wrote an answer, that as the name of Greaves was dear to him by the late inhabitants of the Hall, Miss Brooks would render it doubly so, if she  
would



would consent to bear it, and that assurance only could re-establish his health, which otherwise would soon be far beyond the power of human art, lamenting the irreparable loss he had sustained in the death of his cousin Louisa, who, had she been alive, would certainly have seconded his petition.

This name awakened the tenderness of Maria. She recollected that the death of Louisa was occasioned by the untimely one of Mr. Adair; she saw her faded countenance, and was the constant companion of her sorrows. “And can I,” said she, “let her cousin sink under the same affliction? No; I will conquer my aversion to a married life, and receive the name of Greaves from himself.” She now paid a visit to the sick man, who she found scarce able to support himself in his chair. The room was darkened, as he complained he was unable to bear the light. He was taken out of his bed purposely to receive her.

“Ah!”

“ Ah !” cried he, the moment she entered the room, “ this house has been long inhabited by the tenants of death, I shall soon pay my tribute to him.”

“ I hope not, Sir,” said Maria, “ it will be your own fault if you do.”

This visit lasted near a quarter of an hour, and Greaves in the most pathetic manner requested the favour of her to repeat it as often as in her power, which she promised. The alteration of his features, and his dejected countenance, wrought so much pity in the tender breast of Maria, that the moment she retired, melted into tears, and accused herself of ingratitude to his uncle, and begged Mrs. Linton to acquaint Mr. Hillyard with her sentiments, as she knew he would relate them to Mr. Greaves.

This soon caused an alteration for the better, and in a few days he was able to take the air in her carriage, and, at the request of Mr. Hillyard, she attended him herself with Mrs. Linton.

The marriage of Miss Brooks was the talk of the whole country; and Mr. Greaves's health being perfectly re-established, he set off for London to procure a licence, and returning in a few days, the writings were signed, and every thing got in readiness; and the week following Maria, attended by Mrs. Linton and Mr. Hillyard, gave her hand and person to Mr. Greaves at the altar.

Every face wore the appearance of joy, and masquerades were given by the bridegroom. A month slipped away in rejoicing, when the company departed from the Hall; and Mr. Greaves never appeared so happy as in the company of his amiable wife.

## CHAP. XI.

**T**WO years passed away, when Mr. Hillyard took a fancy to visit that part of the country where his estate lay. Here he had kept a steward, who was a similar character to himself; but this man dying, Mr. Hillyard resolved to go and settle in his native place the remainder of his life; so visiting the school, and committing the accounts into the hands of Mr. Greaves, took leave of the family, promising to revisit the Hall in a year or two.

Mrs. Greaves was now advanced in pregnancy, when one day taking the air in her coach with Mrs. Linton, the horses took fright and ran away, but were happily stopped before they had done any mischief to themselves, or the ladies, who were immediately carried home;



the fright Mrs. Greaves received caused a premature labour, which nearly affected her life. After Mr. Greaves was assured of his wife's recovery, he set out for London to stay a few weeks, as he had lately received several letters from thence, which required his attendance, and taking an affectionate leave of her, promised to return to the Hall before she was well enough to go abroad, telling her, if she wished to preserve his health to be careful of her own.

Two months elapsed without returning, and though he often wrote, never gave any direction where to return an answer.

This behaviour, though mysterious, was thought little of by Mrs. Greaves, as he always complained of the continual hurry he was in, saying, in all his letters, if great care was not taken, he should lose three parts of his estate. This neglect was looked over by her, as occasioned by the anxiety of his mind ; but it  
was

was not so by Mrs. Linton ; she was too well acquainted with the world. She had heard the story of the two children, and though she had not the least suspicion at that time, yet there was a something in his conduct she did not approve ; but had too much good sense to render his amiable wife unhappy, by her giving the least hint.

At the end of four months Mr. Greaves returned to the Hall, but so altered, that he scarce seemed like himself. Mrs. Greaves flew to meet him when she saw the carriage stop ; but all her caresses were received with most mortifying coolness, which he persevered in, scarce speaking ten words the whole evening, and, complaining of fatigue, retired early to his chamber. After he was gone Mrs. Greaves made some remarks upon his temper, saying, “ His brows wore more  
“ the gloom of a funeral than that of a  
“ happy meeting after so long a separa-  
“ tion.”

Mrs. Linton replied, “ that the mind  
 “ of Mr. Greaves might be disturbed at  
 “ the perplexity of his affairs, and occa-  
 “ sion a thoughtfulness, that made him  
 “ appear out of humour to her, who had  
 “ never before seen him but with a smile  
 “ on his countenance.”

However, his gloominess continued. He told Mrs. Greaves she had entirely lost the art of pleasing in his eyes. Mrs. Linton was treated more like a servant than a companion to his wife ; but she had good sense to bear with it, in compassion to Mrs. Greaves, whose spirits were greatly depressed at the alteration in his behaviour.

For two months little else occurred but continual bickerings, when another packet of letters summoned him again to London. Mrs. Greaves requested to know where she might direct to him, saying, it would render her very unhappy in being ignorant of the place of his abode.—“ Not at all,” he replied, “ I  
 “ know

“ know you all better ; I know the whole  
 “ sex, and am well convinced that all  
 “ your love is but deception to draw us  
 “ in, and give a cloak to your own li-  
 “ centious conducts.”—Mrs. Greaves  
 was so amazed at this reply, that it deprived her of the power of speech, and he, not chusing to wait for an answer, stepped into his carriage, (which was waiting) and drove off from the Hall.

Mrs. Linton, who was not present at this *tender* farewell, came into the room as soon as the chaise was gone, and found Mrs. Greaves in her chair almost drowned in tears. She was going to withdraw, but Mrs. Greaves desired she would sit down, and related the last expressions used by her husband at their parting. This good lady could not forbear sympathizing with her, and not willing to increase her sorrow, strove to gloss over the departure of Mr. Greaves, much in the same manner as she had done his arrival.



Near a month had elapsed without hearing from him, and Mrs. Greaves, who was persuaded in her own mind that some accident or other had happened to him, prepared for a visit to the metropolis; but as she had no acquaintance of her own in that place, desired Mrs. Linton to write to some of her friends to procure suitable lodgings for them. Every thing being in readiness they were to set off the next day, when Mrs. Greaves received the following letter:

“MADAM!

“I find you are preparing for a journey to London; but if you mean to oblige me, and expect my future favour, you will desist from your ridiculous intention, which, I suppose, was planned by Mrs. Linton, whose presence is extremely disagreeable to me.

“I shall be at home in a few days, and therefore must desire you to give over all thoughts of your absurd scheme.

“EDWARD GREAVES.”

Mr.

Mr. Greaves returned the week following, and was greatly disappointed at finding Mrs. Linton with his wife, who, he flattered himself, would dismiss her upon the hint he had given ; but finding it was not complied with, thought it most prudent to dissemble, by behaving to her with the highest respect. Yet something seemed to throw a damp upon his spirits ; nor could the frequent attempts of Mrs. Greaves draw him out of his melancholy, which seemed every day to increase, though his behaviour was quite the reverse to what it had been, and from the most morose temper, he became gentle and obliging.

Mrs. Greaves now pressed him to let her know the cause of his perturbation of mind, but he tenderly evaded it, by saying, he could not bear to see her unhappy, and begged her to forgive whatever had passed, assuring her his mind was distracted at that time, and he

had suffered more from reflection than he was able to express.

She assured him she never thought of any past misunderstanding; adding, if it was occasioned by any fault of her's, she would promise not to fall into the like error, if he would but inform her what it was.

Greaves kissed her hand, and declared she was too good for him.—“ I have  
“ been imprudent,” said he; “ let me *pe-*  
“ *rish!* why should I involve you in  
“ misfortunes which you were not acces-  
“ sary to.”

Mrs. Greaves entreated him to acquaint her what the occasions were; declaring, as her whole study was to contribute to his happiness, every thing in her power she would willingly resign to restore it.

He then informed her he had lost above three parts of his fortune in the Alley, and was unable to answer some pressing demands upon him; and that  
he

he had been arrested when last in London, which was the reason of his not writing to her ; and as Mr. Hillyard insisted upon the settling her whole fortune on herself, if she would resign the forty thousand pounds she became entitled to at the death of Louisa, by the will of Mr. Greaves, it would enable him to regain what he had imprudently lost, for which he would give his bond with interest, to be paid within twelve months.—This instantly was consented to by Mrs. Greaves, and she wrote to her trustees, two gentlemen in the neighbourhood, requesting them to assign over their trusts to her husband, which they agreed to, on proper releases being given them ; and, in a few days, Mr. Greaves was put in full possession of her jointure, the exact sum he wanted.

Mrs. Linton silently observed all this with sorrow ; she saw nothing in Mr. Greaves's behaviour to merit such a sacrifice, and blamed herself for not acquaint-



ing Mr. Hillyard of what was going forward, to whose commands Mrs. Greaves always paid an implicit obedience, and who certainly would, by his persuasions, have prevented her putting herself in the power of a man, from whose recent ill treatment she had little to expect; but as it was done, and not to be remedied, she strove to wear an air of cheerfulness, especially as he was all fondness to his wife.

His affection lasted for three weeks, when another packet arrived, which again demanded his immediate return to London, and he, to avoid any questions, stole from the side of Mrs. Greaves when asleep, and, ordering the chaise to wait at some little distance from the Hall, set out, leaving a note on the toilet, informing her, he would write as soon as he arrived in town. This letter was found by her waiting-woman, who being acquainted with her master's hand-writing, and hearing some of the servants say he was  
gone

gone to London, carried it to her mistress, who was almost deprived of her senses on perusal of the contents. At breakfast she met Mrs. Linton, who was equally hurt at the cruel manner of his departure.

At the end of a week Mrs. Greaves received a letter, in which her husband informed her that his affairs were greatly embarrassed, and it would be some time before he could return ; and as there was no alternative, she was obliged to be contented. Mrs. Linton continually was finding out some new amusement to keep up her sinking spirits, which daily seemed to increase their load of sorrow, never suffering her to be alone ; yet she frequently would steal away to some retired spot, and fall into violent fits of weeping, which nearly deprived her of sight.

Several weeks were spent in this manner, when she received another letter from Mr. Greaves, giving directions

about some part of the estate belonging to the manor of White Hall, complaining at the necessity of his being so long absent, and expressing his most ardent wishes for his return, hoping, as he said, never to leave it again without the pleasure of her company.

This re-animated Mrs. Greaves, and her countenance revived. It was followed by several others, equally affectionate; and as Mrs. Greaves generally read them over a hundred times a day, she always carried them in her pocket.

One day, after looking over these fond epistles in a summer-house, as she was putting them in her pocket one dropped, which stooping to pick up, she saw a paper folded, lying under a chair that stood in a corner of the room, and taking it up, she found it directed to Mr. Greaves—when opening it, she read as follows:

“ SIR,

“ SIR,

“ For, I suppose, I dare not address  
 “ you by any other name, I begin to fear  
 “ you have lost all recollection of me  
 “ and your children ; but if you do not  
 “ come to London in a few days, I shall  
 “ make bold to visit White Hall. This,  
 “ I think, will be sufficient, without any  
 “ further hints from

“ JANE MORRIS.”

*Hampstead.*

Petrified at the sight, Mrs. Greaves turned it, and read the address over several times before she would give credit to her own senses ; but collecting all her fortitude, she put it in her pocket with the rest of her papers, and returning to the Hall, immediately ordered her carriage to be ready early the next morning, begging Mrs. Linton to prepare to accompany her to London, as she had some business there of a particular nature. The remainder of the day was spent in making



making the necessary preparations, and next morning Mrs. Greaves set out, attended by her faithful companion, who was an entire stranger to the occasion of this sudden journey.

As they were upon the road, Mrs. Greaves gave the letter into Mrs. Linton's hands, who, enraged at her husband's conduct, could not help letting fall the words "detestable, designing villain!" but seeing the eyes of the innocent Maria swimming in tears, her passion instantly subsided, and she used every argument that love, friendship, and pity could suggest, to keep her from sinking under that heavy weight of affliction that stabs far beyond the power of human skill to heal, and leaves a rankling wound in the heart, that never closes when given by those we esteem dearer than ourselves; and though Maria had wrought herself up, as she thought, into a thorough contempt of him, yet she could not forget her own situation, and  
the

the nearer she approached to town the more poignant was her anguish; every thought filled her breast with sorrow, and shrinking from the gulph of misery she saw before her, fainted several times in the arms of Mrs. Linton.

As they were not provided with lodgings, they drove to a hotel near St. James's, where they rested that evening, and the next day, taking a hackney coach, proceeded to Hampstead; and after driving about for two hours making inquiries, no person knew the name of Morris, and they returned home, much fatigued with their fruitless journey, which they resolved to prosecute till they could find out the lady.

Three days were spent in this wearisome manner, when Mrs. Linton recollected that Mr. Hillyard was acquainted with the residence of Mrs. Morris, and begged Maria to write to him for information, which she immediately did; but as it would be a week at least before she  
could

could receive any answer, and the sorrows of Maria still increasing, she, with much difficulty, persuaded her to go to the Opera, and partake of the diversions of the town.

At last an answer arrived from Mr. Hillyard ; and as Maria had not informed him of the occasion of her writing for Mrs. Morris's address, he wondered what had carried her to London, and placed her at a hotel. He supposed she was getting as bad as the rest, and desired her to get home as fast as she could ; but as she might perhaps want to visit his children, inclosed the direction.

Maria, impatient of waiting till the next morning, set out immediately on the receipt of the letter, and arrived at the place just before the dusk of the evening. The coachman rang the bell, and the same footman that had been at White Hall to see the children, answered with " there's no Mrs. Morris lives here."

" Then,

“ Then, pray, what is your mistress’s name ?” said Mrs. Linton, looking out of the coach window.

“ Greaves, Madam,” he replied.

“ Is she at home ?”

“ I’ll go and see, Madam.”

Maria, who sat trembling by Mrs. Linton’s side at the servant’s answer, cried out, “ Tell her it is the Lady from White Hall.”

“ Oh ! yes, Madam,” he returned, “ my mistress has often wished to see you.” And instantly running into the house, in a few minutes, desiring them to alight and walk in.

They were met at the hall door by a genteel woman in an elegant undress, who inquired which was Miss Brooks.

“ That was this lady’s name, Madam,” replied Mrs. Linton ; “ but, about three years since, she changed it for Greaves.”

“ Excuse me, Madam,” returned the lady, taking Maria by the hand, “ are you



“ you the lady who paid such attention  
“ to my children ?”

“ Yes, Madam,” replied Maria, almost sinking into the arms of Mrs. Linton.

“ And are you the lady who wrote to  
“ me by the name of Morris ?”

“ I wrote to you, Madam, in that  
“ name by the desire of Mr. Greaves,  
“ who is my husband, and the father of  
“ the children you so kindly protected.”

“ Great God !” exclaimed Maria, “ I  
“ am devoted to destruction.”

Mrs. Linton now related the circumstances of the marriage of Mr. Greaves to his astonished wife, who, after her first surprise was over, fell at the feet of Maria, and implored her forgiveness for her husband.

“ No !” cried Maria ; “ nothing on  
“ earth can make me a reparation : my  
“ fortune he might have taken, that I  
“ would willingly have forgiven ; that  
“ was his uncle’s.”——Here the tears  
choaked

choaked her utterance, which broke into violent sobs, while Mrs. Greaves and Mrs. Linton stood by her side, nearly in the same situation; when the children, who had been up stairs, came running down, and seeing the parlour-door open, ran in; the eldest instantly knew Maria, and going to his mother, inquired if that was not the lady that kept him from the beggars; his mother taking him by the hand, bid him fall at the feet of Miss Brooks, and intercede for his father. Little Edward was going to do as she directed him, when Maria taking him in her arms, kissed him, and beckoning to Mrs. Linton, went to her carriage, and bowing to Mrs. Greaves, who followed drowned in tears, drove to the Hotel.

Miss Brooks could not withstand the supplications of the child, and as she ever inviolably kept her word, was fearful of any thing like a promise escaping her, she instantly retired to the coach, as  
before

before mentioned, where we will leave them, and return to Mrs. Greaves.

This lady was then in her thirtieth year, ten of which she had been married to Mr. Greaves. She was the daughter of a tenant of his mother's, who, some time after the death of her husband, had purchased an estate with a small box in the county of Surry, and Mrs. Greaves being much attached to the parents of the girl, as honest, industrious people, took their daughter to be her woman. Mr. Greaves soon became enamoured with her, but she had the good sense to withstand his solicitations of becoming his mistress, and acquainted his mother, who gave him a lecture, promising to support Jane Morris, for that was her maiden name, and sent her to her father's. But Greaves had dallied with this girl so long, thinking to entrap her in the snare he had laid for her ruin, till he had fallen into it himself; for he no sooner found she was removed out  
of

of his reach, than he would have given his whole fortune to have procured a sight of her; and, like most libertines, he hated his mother, and was continually doing something or another to vex her. Here, a handsome opportunity presented itself, no less than marrying her maid. This was no sooner thought of, but put in execution, for he instantly went to her father, and solicited his consent. The bait was too well gilt to be refused by the old man, but the daughter, who loved her late mistress, declared she would not have him till she knew whether his mother approved it. This objection was soon removed by Edward, who being expert in every wickedness, could forge Mrs. Greaves's hand to a nicety, wrote a letter, which he sent inclosed to one of his companions whom he could trust, desiring him to go to his mother's, and send a servant he left there with it. This done, he presented it to Jane, who was fully persuaded



suaded it was her mistress's hand-writing, and the licence being ready, they were privately married the day following. This news soon reached his mother's ears, who sent for her daughter-in-law, and upon her producing the letter, forgave her, but a coolness between her and her son ever after subsisted.

He had imposed upon his wife, when he found the children at the Hall, by telling her Miss Brooks was an old maid, and, as she was in a declining state of health, had made her will, and actually left him her whole fortune; but as she possessed a great deal of family pride, and was unacquainted with his marriage, it would be best to keep her so, as he was sure, if she was informed of the origin of Mrs. Greaves, she would be so much offended as to strike him entirely out of her will; and, with such persuasions, prevailed on her to write to the Hall by the name of Jane Morris, and as she was a woman of remarkable easy temper, she complied.

As

As this marriage, like many other affairs, was a nine days wonder, the tatlers had tired themselves with it when Louisa and her father came to town, and his mother, not wishing to expose her son's follies, thought they might hear it from some other person; but as it was no secret, it was not worth talking about: and as Mr. Hillyard was near two hundred miles from London when it took place, he was not acquainted with it, though this was the cause of the coolness between him and his mother, which Louisa noticed to Miss Brooks in the Miniature.

## C H A P. XII.

UPON the return of the ladies to the Hotel, Maria, by the advice of Mrs. Linton, wrote to Mr. Hillyard, informing him of Greaves's villainy, desiring his advice, and requesting him to go and take possession of White Hall immediately.

This letter he immediately answered, and a few days after a gentleman waited on her by Mr. Hillyard's recommendation, and took instructions to proceed against Greaves.

Maria now gave herself up to affliction, weeping continually, and the air of London not agreeing with her delicate constitution, by the advice of her physicians, she removed to a ready-furnished house which was taken for her

at H——, a small distance from town. With Mrs. Linton's kind attention, she soon recovered from her dejection; and after Mr. Hillyard had arranged the affairs at the Hall, he came to London, and stayed till she had obtained a decree in the Commons against Greaves, who had absented himself as soon as he was informed of her arrival in London, and according to report, was gone to France. She soon became well enough to go abroad, and as she kept no company, she and Mrs. Linton used frequently to walk on the adjacent common, which was a large one, and made little excursions to the charming village of R——y: here, by taking notice of some fine children, they became acquainted with the wife of a farmer, whose apparent innocence pleased them very much; at her house they often rested themselves. This woman had a person who had lately come to lodge with her for the benefit of her health; she was an agreeable



woman of about twenty-five, and passed for a lady of great family, but was so circumspect of what her origin was, that she never mentioned their names, saying, she did not care to be known to any person in the place, fearing her low station in life should disgrace her pedigree, which, from her own account, was one of the noblest in the kingdom.

She called herself Godfrey, and said, she had disobliged her friends by marrying an officer, who was little more than a soldier of fortune, from whose ill treatment, she had been obliged to sue for a separate maintenance, which she had obtained. This story soon gained credit with Maria, whose recent sufferings made her commiserate the misfortunes of others, and from the great likeness Mrs. Godfrey bore to Mrs. Brooks of the Manor House, their slight acquaintance insensibly increased into the warmest friendship on the part

of Maria; and from the frequent visits of her attorney, and the exclamations of Mr. Hillyard, who could not sit half an hour without denouncing vengeance against Greaves, Mrs. Godfrey soon found out their business, and as Maria related it, she shed tears at the perfidy of Greaves.

Maria now received a letter from Mrs. Greaves, imploring her lenity towards her husband, who, she said, had wrote several times to her, accusing her as the sole cause of his misfortunes, and execrating the hour he first saw her. Miss Brooks sincerely pitied the unhappy situation of Mrs. Greaves, and declared she should ever esteem her, and would adopt her children, who should not suffer for their father's crimes, but would never forgive the villany of her husband, who had robbed her of her future happiness, and embittered every hour of her life.

These sentiments were applauded by Mr. Hillyard and Mrs. Linton, they both declaring, it was a duty she owed to herself to vindicate her character, which would otherwise seem doubtful, and give those who were fond of calumny, an opportunity of fixing an indelible stain which time could not erase. A suit was instituted in the Ecclesiastical Court, and actions for the recovery of her fortune, were carried on with the greatest vigour, and Greaves not appearing, writs were issued for the apprehension of his person, and letters of entreaty were continually sending from his wife, but Maria remained inflexible, though Mrs. Godfrey often tried to soften her by every argument she could think of, declaring, the situation of Mrs. Greaves made her truly unhappy, though she was unacquainted with the parties.

The decline of summer made Maria wish to return to town, as she was very  
often

often obliged to go thither, which, in bad weather, was extremely disagreeable, and for this purpose, Mr. Hillyard was gone to hire a furnished house, but as he was rather difficult, it had taken him up several days, and as they found themselves very lonesome, in his absence, they accepted an invitation from Mrs. Godfrey to spend the evening at R——y. It was towards the latter end of September, and the day had been very fine, and the moon rising early, she invited Maria to take a walk with her round the garden, which was very large, and laid open to the adjoining fields, which were rented by the farmer at whose house they were. They had taken several turns, and were just seated on a chair at the bottom of it, when four men jumped from behind a quickset hedge, disguised in masks, and seizing Maria, tied a handkerchief over her eyes, threatening to murder her if she made the least resistance, and forced



her along with them into the fields, where their horses being ready equipped, they instantly mounted, and binding her behind one of them, were quickly out of sight. Mrs. Godfrey stood a quiet spectator of all this, and returning into the house, informed Mrs. Linton that Miss Brooks was so highly delighted with the beauty of the evening, that she could not persuade her to leave the garden. They sat chattering some time, when Maria not appearing, Mrs. Linton began to be uneasy, and desired Mrs. Godfrey to accompany her into the garden, which she begged leave to decline, saying, Miss Brooks was in such a contemplative mood, she was afraid it would offend her, if she was disturbed. This did not satisfy Mrs. Linton, who, taking the farmer's eldest daughter, went herself in search of Maria, but could not discover the least traces of her: greatly alarmed, she returned to the house, and inquiring whether

whether she was come in, was answered in the negative. She now begged Mrs. Godfrey, who pretended to be much frightened at her absence, to dispatch the servants in search. But not the least intelligence could be obtained.

Mrs. Linton's agitation being a little assuaged, it immediately occurred to her that Mr. Greaves had carried her off, and upon reflection, made not the least doubt but Mrs. Godfrey was an agent in this most detestable business; but not thinking it prudent to avow her sentiments where she was, ordered her servant to attend her home, which as soon as she reached, she sent for a neighbour, to whom she related the whole affair, with her suspicions. This gentleman immediately desired his servant to go to the farm-house, and at all events, to secure Mrs. Godfrey. But she was too great a Machiavel to run the hazard of detection, and, under the pretence of seeking Maria, had taken a post-chaise,

chaife, which ſhe had previously ordered, and was gone to London.

This confirmed them in their opinion. Almoſt diſtracted, Mrs. Linton ordered the chariot, and attended by her kind neighbour, ſet off for Mr. Hillyard's lodgings, which they reached about twelve o'clock at night. The ſtreet was quite ſilent, and the family were retired to reſt, when ſhe, impatient of the ſervant's rapping too ſoftly, jumped from the chariot, and alarmed them in an inſtant, who being unuſed to ſuch noiſes at that unſeaſonable time, threw up the ſaſhes, and demanded to know who was there.

“ Oh ! let me in,” cried Mrs. Linton, “ open the door, tell him 'tis me.”

“ Who, what ?” returned the voice.

The repeated noiſe brought Mr. Hillyard to his window, who knowing her voice, ordered the ſervants to admit her.

“ Oh,

“ Oh, heavens !” she exclaimed, “ we  
“ are all undone, Miss Brooks is mur-  
“ dered.”

The gentleman who attended Mrs. Linton, now begged she would compose herself, and related all he knew of the affair to Mr. Hillyard, who was almost petrified with astonishment ; he insisting on her staying in his lodgings, promising he would use proper methods to prevent Miss Brooks from been carried out of the kingdom.

We will now return to the distressed Maria, who was carried across the country by bye-ways, and in the space of two hours, was near twenty miles from the place she was taken ; she was hurried by force into a coach that was waiting, and to intimidate her the more, two of them who got in with her, untied her sash, and securing her hands with it, laid their pistols on the opposite seat, saying, if she meant to preserve her life,



to go quietly with them, when finding all resistance vain she submitted.

The carriage stopped at several places to change horses, but the blinds were kept continually up, and her guards never quitted her. In this manner they travelled till the evening of the second day, when they stopped at a small hut by the side of a wood; here she was handed out by her attendants into a little dark room, where sat an old woman, whose form and appearance seemed a true picture of one of the furies brooding over a handful of fire, burning on the hearth, which was all the light to be seen in this miserable place. Maria, who from fatigue, and the little refreshment she had taken, was scarce able to support herself, as all she had tasted was only one glass of wine, which the ruffians had insisted upon her drinking out of a bottle which they had brought with them. She was seated on a wretched bed which stood in a corner of the room  
covered

covered with rags. The old beldam eyed Maria, and then looking at them, with a horrid grin, cried out, " So, this " is the fine lady who, after depriving " the poor young gentleman of his fortune, wanted to hang him, but she'll " know better before she is a year older."

This speech, though uttered from the mouth of such a wretch, revived her drooping spirits, who thought she had been brought there to be murdered. For though she saw her situation very desperate, yet if they spared her life, she did not doubt but by the exertions of her friends, she should recover her liberty.

One of the men, who seemed to be the chief, went to the village for some provisions, whilst the other assisted the old woman in making a better fire, and spread something in the likeness of a table-cloth, though the colour resembled a coal-sack, upon this was laid four knives and forks, with an equal number

of brown earthen platters, and in a few minutes, the man returned with a hamper loaded with victuals, part of which they placed on the table, and sitting down, made a hearty repast, after soliciting Maria to partake with them, which she refused, till one of them with the most horrid imprecations, insisted she should; terrified at his threats, she reluctantly complied.

They remained that night in this miserable place, Maria being obliged to share the bed with the old woman, while the two fellows laid upon the floor by her side, till about an hour before the break of day, when her hostess arose, and putting a saucepan over the fire boiled some water, with which she made tea, they brought the preceding evening with the other things. After this, they put five guineas in the old woman's hands, and bidding her to be secret, promised her ten more upon their return, whilst she, kneeling, kissing the gold, and  
swore

swore eternal fidelity. They again tied the handkerchief over her face, and forcing her into the coach, drove away much in the same manner as before, and in the evening arrived at another hut near the sea-side.

Here the fellows grew much kinder than they had hitherto been; emboldened by their seeming civility, she offered them a considerable gratuity for her liberty, but neither bribes nor entreaties could prevail, as they assured her, tho' she would never see her native country again, it would be her own fault if she was not happy.

This hut was kept by a man who was at the head of a gang of desperate smugglers, of the most surly disposition, and callous to every humane feeling; he was about sixty years old, and had two women with him, who passed for his daughters, the eldest was about thirty, and the other seemed a year or two younger. These creatures, less benign in  
nature



nature than their father, slept with, and were the companions of Maria, whose tears and complaints afforded them sufficient subjects for their mirth.

In this place she was confined near a fortnight, when the men who brought her in the coach, informed her a vessel was hourly expected to carry her abroad, but where, they were not at liberty to say.

She thanked them for their intelligence, and hoped they would not leave her till she arrived at the place of her destination, assuring them, if ever she regained her liberty, *they* need not fear her resentment.

A small vessel now anchored within half a mile of the beach, but as the surge ran very high, with the wind against them, the crew were afraid of venturing too near the shore, but it changing, a boat with two men landed, calling for Miss Brooks, who was in waiting, tied a handkerchief about her eyes, and led her

her to the boat, and after rowing near an hour, she was put on board the vessel.

The handkerchief was now taken off, and the moon shining bright, she looked with streaming eyes towards her native shore, and with a short but fervent prayer, begged her Creator not to forsake her in the hour of her distress, as she firmly relied on him whose bounty is immense, she resolved to bear her misfortunes with a pious resignation, recollecting the advice given her by Mr. Hillyard.

## C H A P. XIII.

A BRISK gale springing up, the land quickly lessened in her sight, and as the same men still attended her, she was much easier in her mind than she had hitherto been, and for the first time conversed with them. They had been upon the deck near an hour, when on a sudden the wind changed ; a clap of thunder announced the approaching storm ; the blue lightening shot its forked darts across the black sky, and the rain poured down in torrents.

Maria, who had retreated to the cabin that was prepared for her, sat trembling, while the hollow winds roared, and the sea running mountains high, raised their little vessel nearly to the clouds.

When terrors assail the wicked, an evil conscience presents a monitor, which human

man nature shudders at, and terrified at their past crimes, they attribute the works of nature to be caused by their wickedness—"so far doth the Great God inspire" reprobates with an awe of him!"

So it was with these ruffians, who assisted to force Maria from her home; they accused themselves of having, for the sake of gold, unjustly taken her from her native country to one where she would be confined for the remainder of her life; vowed, if ever they set their feet on shore again, to do their utmost in restoring her to her friends. In this manner they were tossed about for that night, and all the next day, when, towards midnight, the moon shewed her pale face, and the swelling ocean gently subsided into a calm, when the mariners informed them they were near the coast of France.

Maria now reminded her keepers of the vows they had made in the time of their danger; but their qualms had left them with the storm, informing her they  
had



had both taken the sacrament and kissed the crucifix, which obliged them to obey their *Holy Father* who administered it; but as they had taken a particular liking to her, they would not leave her till they had seen her safe into a place, where care would be taken of her soul as well as body, and she would be sensible of the service they had done her, in getting her received into the pale of that church, whose doctrines were infallible.

As Maria found these poor wretches were filled with ignorance and superstition, she quietly submitted. The ship at last came to an anchor, and, in the middle of the night, she was put into the boat, blind-folded, and carried on shore. Here a wretched equipage waited for her, into which she was hurried, and the ruffians, taking a little wine and biscuit with them, by way of refreshment, continued their journey.

Maria now recollected she was in a strange country, unacquainted with the language and manners of the people,  
and

and as she had a very valuable diamond ring on her finger, privately took it off, and pretending to put up her hair, which was hanging down her back, concealed it.

They then proceeded as fast as they could till break of day, when the carriage stopped at the entrance of a large wood, through which was an unfrequented path. Adjoining stood a small house, for the accommodation of travellers, where, after refreshing themselves, her keepers dismissed the carriage, and mounted horses, which were in readiness. Maria was permitted to have one to herself; but, for fear of her escaping, a leather thong was fastened to the middle, which one of them held in his hand. In this manner they travelled the remainder of the day, when the other, bidding his companion to stop, ordered her to dismount, while he again tied the handkerchief over her eyes, and mounting afresh, pursued their journey.

After

After riding several miles, and taking many intricate turns, they arrived at a large chateau, moated round, which had not the least appearance of being inhabited. Taking the bandage off her eyes, Maria, by their order, pulled a rope that hung down a post, and rung an alarm bell fixed on the top.

She inquired the name of the place, but was answered they were not at liberty to tell; and as, when once she had crossed the moat, she would be secured for life, therefore it would be best for her to submit quietly, without asking farther questions. The summons was answered by a Cerberus, who demanded their business, and being informed, he stepped into a boat, and pushing it off, rowed towards them.

The courage of Maria forsook her; she sunk almost lifeless on the ground, and remained in that situation near an hour, when, recovering, she found herself alone in a miserable dungeon, stripped

ped of her watch, her pockets rifled, and the miniature of Louisa taken from her bosom.

While she was surveying this dreadful place the lock turned ; and the creaking hinges of the door reluctantly giving way, the gaoler entered, and placing a stool for her to sit upon, desired, in broken English, she would not give herself any more fainting airs, for as she had now reached her last abode, she had better conform cheerfully to the customs of the place.

“ Oh ! Sir,” cried she, dropping on her knees, “ for Heaven’s sake take pity  
 “ on a poor wretch, torn from her coun-  
 “ try and friends by the machinations of  
 “ a villain ; I will reward you for every  
 “ risk you may run in restoring me to  
 “ them, and take you from this detest-  
 “ able employment, and make you rich  
 “ and happy.”

The fellow, not understanding half of what she said, pushed her from him, and  
 going



going out, locked the door after him, and, regardless of her distresses, went singing down stairs.

“Great God!” said she, “humanize this wretch, and inspire him with god-like mercy, and let me not fall a victim to my enemies;” and recommending herself to the Deity, threw herself on something in the form of a bed. Here she lay for some time, listening to the rattling of chains, which assailed her ears, with the most piteous groans; but nature being oppressed with weariness, she fell into a sound sleep, and did not awake till the next morning, when an old woman entered with her breakfast, and setting it down, without speaking a word, instantly retired.

The sight of a woman was some consolation to Maria, who, resolving to gain their good-will by obedience, swallowed a morsel, and finding herself much refreshed, was left to her reflections till the evening, when the same old woman brought

brought a glimmering taper, and seating herself by the side of Maria, on the bed, asked her what part of England she came from. Amazed, and overjoyed, Maria seized her hand with transport.—“Great  
 “ God !” she cried, “ have I found a  
 “ friend in this savage place, in whom I  
 “ can confide ?”—“ You may,” returned the old woman ; “ but I have now  
 “ staid the time allotted me—we shall  
 “ shall see each other to-morrow morning : but if the keeper visits you, be  
 “ sure you seem cheerful in complying  
 “ with any thing he desires ; it will gain  
 “ you more liberty, and you will forget  
 “ your country, and be happy the remainder of your life, and be removed  
 “ from hence, and admitted into our  
 “ holy sisterhood. Adieu : mind what  
 “ I have said.”

Maria now discovered she was intended to be immured within the walls of a Convent, but could not imagine she should be able to learn in what part of  
 France

France she was ; however, it gave her some relief, to think she should be once more among women.

The keeper now paid her a visit, and informed her he had brought her some books, in which she might be convinced of the great sin she had committed in differing from the *true* religion, and following the detestable doctrines of heresy.

“ Sir,” replied Maria, “ I have not forsaken the religion I was brought up in.”

“ Alas ! poor creature,” he cried, “ thou wast nursed in sin, and those who instructed you in it, are, long ago, sunk into the abode of devils ; I say, apostate devils !”

At this enthusiastic speech Maria burst into a flood of tears.

“ Aye, well may you weep,” he continued. “ Shed tears of blood for the errors you have followed :—but here I have brought you the lives of the saints ; read them, and try to recommend  
“ yourself

“ yourself to some holy saint, to turn  
 “ and cleanse your heart; and if you  
 “ faithfully renounce your errors, you  
 “ will soon be removed from this place;  
 “ if not, prepare to follow those wretches  
 “ from whom you sprung.”—So saying,  
 he quitted the room.

“ Great God of the Universe,” said  
 she, kneeling, “ art thou not all in all?  
 “ Where shall I fly for help but to thee?  
 “ Do thou direct me, and support my  
 “ sinking spirits. Give me courage, O  
 “ God! to stand firm to the sacred truths  
 “ thou hast revealed; nor let me be led  
 “ away by pretended miracles, wrought  
 “ by creatures who lived and died like  
 “ other men, and who at the last day of  
 “ judgement must render an account of  
 “ their actions. Firmly will I cleave to  
 “ thee, nor ever offer up a petition to  
 “ any else, for thou alone art able to  
 “ rescue me from the persecutions of my  
 “ enemies.”



After this short ejaculation she was visited by the old woman, who told her she had been listening, and overheard her prayer, which, if it had been heard by any other, would have cost her her life; but as she was her country-woman, she should not notice it; only would recommend to her to shake off those heretical notions, and receive the living body and blood of Christ, that was awaiting for her on their altars—"and recommend  
 "yourself to some saint that will protect  
 "you, and in time you will become one  
 "of us, and by your exemplary life, become fit for that Heaven you have forfeited."

"Oh! no," replied Maria, "I will  
 "not forsake, nor deny that God who  
 "alone is able to deliver me: my body  
 "you may destroy, but my soul will take  
 "its flight, far, far beyond your powers,  
 "and, by depriving me of a miserable  
 "life in this world, give me an immortal one in Heaven."—"Oh! *Sancta*  
 " *Maria!*"

“ *Maria !*” cried the old nun, “ you are  
 “ certainly bereft of your senses ; it is  
 “ well you are not heard by any other  
 “ person : I will not mention your obsti-  
 “ nacy ; but, for the sake of Heaven !  
 “ hear the holy Father that will soon at-  
 “ tend you ; hear his arguments, and  
 “ open your eyes to righteousness, nor  
 “ wilfully sink into perdition, when you  
 “ have such an opportunity of drinking  
 “ of the water of eternal life. Mind  
 “ what I say to you, and willingly re-  
 “ nounce your errors—God turn your  
 “ heart. I dare not stay any longer, but  
 “ whatever may be your sentiments, at-  
 “ tend to the arguments of those that  
 “ are sent to you with patience.”

Maria now was left to herself for the  
 remainder of the day, and opened this  
 voluminous book to divert her thoughts.  
 She read several passages of the different  
 lives, often wondering that such fabulous  
 stories, half of them taken from heathen  
 mythology, could be read and believed

by a people that called themselves enlightened, while the Holy Scriptures were thrown aside, as dangerous and useless. In this manner she remained for three days, only receiving her small allowance from the gaoler, who scarcely spoke to her; but as she was generally reading when he entered, he seemed much pleased, and his countenance relaxed from that severity it generally wore.

At last she was visited by a Monk, whose whole religion seemed to lay in eating and drinking. With his *strict* keeping of Lent he had increased himself from the size of a common man to that of Sir John Falstaff; for his belly was seen about ten minutes, on his entering the door, before the rest of his body made its appearance. This man began to work the intended conversion by cursing the whole bench of bishops, by calling them rascals! And, for fear he should not know his picture, I will give it in his own words.—“ Well! how do  
“ you

“ you think you can be saved, if you  
 “ don’t embrace the religion of your an-  
 “ cestors ? Instead of that, you follow a  
 “ pack of wretches that have got fat  
 “ livings, d—n them !—Tillotson is  
 “ d—ned, and so will the rest of them ;  
 “ for they can’t do without their *ribs*.”

This was the discourse of this *good*  
*priest*, who thought by his eloquence to  
 gain a convert ; but struck with horror at  
 his impiety, it served only to strengthen  
 the opinions she had been brought up  
 in, “ that there could be no religion  
 “ where bigotry and superstition prevail-  
 “ ed.”—Maria, who was not skilled in  
 controversy, sat quietly, without making  
 any reply to his arguments ; and he,  
 taking her silence as acquiescing in his  
 opinion, was well pleased, telling her she  
 was a sensible woman ; but as he was  
 going for England he could not call  
 again, but another gentleman should,  
 who would convince her of the absurdity  
 of her late religion, and confirm her in  
 L 3 principles,



principles, which would establish her everlasting felicity ; so, taking his leave, left her in the utmost astonishment.

The behaviour of her keeper grew much kinder, and in the course of a few days after the visit of Father G——, he began to enter into trifling conversations with her, but avoided giving ear to her complaints ; and the moment she spoke of the hardships she had undergone, he would quit the cell without making her any answer. This lasted near two months, when Maria was visited by a reverend priest belonging to the Monastery of —— ; this good man was descended from a noble English family, who, after King William ascended the throne, followed James to France, and settled there ; and his father having a great number of children, several of the younger sons had taken monastic vows, and entered into different orders. This gentleman was turned of seventy ; his faculties were strong, learned, and though in the order  
of

of priesthood, despised its craft, and was sensible, pious, and liberal, ever ready to assist the wretched, either Protestants or Catholics ; though this heavenly disposition caused him to be looked upon with a jealous eye by some bigots, yet, by the more enlightened part, he was esteemed and revered. He visited Maria, and dropping a discourse which he saw was unpleasant, inquired after many families in England, who, he said, he had some knowledge of.—Maria, who was unacquainted with them, any more than by hearing their names, assured him she was an entire stranger in the metropolis, and briefly related her history. At her mentioning Lancashire he started, and desiring her to look at him, cried—  
 “ Have you, Miss Brooks, forgot the  
 “ old man you so generously relieved  
 “ when you was returning to White-  
 “ Hall ? And shall I see you persecuted  
 “ and unjustly confined !—No : Heaven  
 “ forbid !”—He then informed her, that

the liberality of her present, with the noble manner she gave it, made him curious to know who his benefactress was, and he followed her carriage till he met with a labourer, who resided in her village, who told him her name and character. “ I had travelled,” continued he, “ to London, where I had a law-suit “ for a small sum of money that had been “ left me for a number of years before I “ heard of it ; but the heir at law was a “ rich, powerful man, and when the will “ came to be examined there was a flaw “ in it ; and as I had expended all my “ money in carrying on the suit, I was in “ great distress.

“ At that time, for reasons of state, “ there was a severe edict issued by the “ Parliament against all Priests that were “ not under the Ambassador’s protection ; and some person giving an information against me, I was obliged to “ quit London in the course of an hour, “ without one penny in my pocket. In “ this

“ this manner I travelled the first day,  
 “ without ever breaking my fast, be-  
 “ ing afraid to write to my friends, and  
 “ the people of a little alehouse denying  
 “ me a lodging without money, I slept  
 “ under a hedge for that night, and ri-  
 “ sing as soon as day appeared, much  
 “ weakened with fatigue and hunger, I  
 “ left my uncomfortable bed, and crept  
 “ slowly along till I was overtaken by a  
 “ poor woman with three children, who  
 “ had a wallet at her back crammed with  
 “ provisions, and seeing me walk feebly,  
 “ asked me how far I was travelling. I  
 “ told her I had many miles to go, and  
 “ not a farthing to support the calls of  
 “ nature with. ‘ Good God ! ’ she cried,  
 “ I thought there was not a person on  
 “ earth so miserable as myself ; but you  
 “ shall not die for hunger : for though I  
 “ have but very little, yet God sent it me,  
 “ and I am sure he will send me more,  
 “ so we will breakfast together under  
 “ the first convenient tree we can find.’



“ We soon came to a spot that pleased  
 “ her, and, sitting down, she opened her  
 “ wallet, and spread her coarse, though  
 “ clean provision, on a cloth that she  
 “ laid on the grass; but perceiving me  
 “ weak and faint, she gave her eldest  
 “ child, a boy about nine years old, two  
 “ pence, and bade him take a can,  
 “ and go to a neighbouring alehouse that  
 “ was not far distant, and fetch a pint of  
 “ ale, which the good creature insisted  
 “ upon my drinking. After this repast I  
 “ found myself much refreshed. We  
 “ proceeded on our journey, and finding  
 “ her much better bred than people of  
 “ her appearance, I inquired the cause  
 “ of her being in that situation, upon  
 “ which she gave me the following his-  
 “ tory :——

“ My father,” said she, “ was a far-  
 “ mer in the town of C——, in Lanca-  
 “ shire, and by his industry and careful-  
 “ ness brought up a family, which con-  
 “ sisted of my sister and myself, rather  
 “ above

“ above the common farmers daughters ;  
 “ as I was his *pet*, he said, he could  
 “ spare five hundred pounds, which he  
 “ would give me if I married to his li-  
 “ king. The report of my fortune  
 “ brought me many sweethearts from  
 “ amongst the neighbouring farmers ;  
 “ but I refused them all, for my heart  
 “ was in the possession of Mr. Wallford,  
 “ the gentleman of our 'Squire, whose  
 “ company was coveted by all the girls  
 “ in the town, and whose fine appearance  
 “ dazzled all our eyes. I was then in  
 “ my eighteenth year, and what our  
 “ townsfolk called a pretty girl, and my  
 “ father, who longed to see me settled in  
 “ the world, often persuaded me to mar-  
 “ ry young Mr. Bumkin, the son of a  
 “ very rich farmer, who was very fond  
 “ of me ; but I was blind to the good  
 “ counsel he gave, and sobbing, decla-  
 “ red I would have Mr. Wallford : he,  
 “ poor soul, was much against this ; but  
 “ my lover persuaded me to pretend I

“ was sick, and keep my room. This  
 “ I did, and my dear father was so terri-  
 “ fied at the thoughts of losing me, that  
 “ he gave his consent to our wedding,  
 “ which was celebrated almost directly.  
 “ Two rooms were prepared for us in  
 “ my father’s house, and we lived very  
 “ happy.

“ At last my husband committed some  
 “ fault, which his master discharged him  
 “ for; and as he said he had very good  
 “ relations in London, he desired my  
 “ father to pay him my little fortune,  
 “ and he would go there and set me up  
 “ in some way of business; and as he  
 “ should be amongst his friends, he  
 “ should soon get a place again, and our  
 “ five hundred pounds would increase to  
 “ a thousand before the year was out.  
 “ My father instantly paid the money,  
 “ but was very loth to part with me, say-  
 “ ing, he was sure he should never see  
 “ me again, and begged my husband to  
 “ leave me behind till I was brought to  
 “ bed,

“ bed, as I was then very big with  
 “ my eldest child; but no persua-  
 “ sions could prevail; he said he would  
 “ not be so long separated from me for  
 “ all the world, and ordered me to get  
 “ my things in readiness to set off by the  
 “ stage the next morning. My father  
 “ went with us several miles, and, I be-  
 “ lieve, would have gone the whole  
 “ way; but as my mother was ill, he  
 “ was obliged to go home again: he  
 “ called to the coachman several times  
 “ to stop; and then, unwilling to leave  
 “ me, said he would go a mile farther,  
 “ and so continued with us till we had  
 “ got the first stage, where, with tears  
 “ running down his aged cheeks, he  
 “ took his last farewell. God bless you!   
 “ my dear Patty,’ said he, ‘ be a good  
 “ girl, I shall never see you more.—‘I  
 “ was ready to sink to the earth, but my  
 “ husband forced me away, helping me  
 “ into the stage, that was ready to drive  
 “ off, telling my father, if business an-  
 “ swered,



“ swered, we would come down and see  
 “ him.—‘ I looked out of the coach, and  
 “ saw him standing, and earnestly look-  
 “ ing after us, till we were nearly out of  
 “ sight ; when seeing me he waved his  
 “ hat, and putting his handkerchief to  
 “ his eyes, went into the house. I was  
 “ almost dead with grief, when an old  
 “ lady who sat opposite to me gave me  
 “ some drops, which greatly relieved  
 “ me, and prevented my fainting, which  
 “ I had like to have done several times.

“ With a heavy heart I reached Lon-  
 “ don ; and as we were unprovided with  
 “ a lodging, my husband took me to a  
 “ sister of his, where we were to stay for  
 “ a few days. This woman was a laun-  
 “ dress, and washed for several families  
 “ of distinction. Her house was an of-  
 “ fice of news ; and as she let lodgings  
 “ to servants out of place, both men and  
 “ women, every transaction of their past  
 “ and present mistresses was canvassed  
 “ there. Often have I sat and heard

“ what schemes were laid to cheat the  
 “ indigent out of the charity that their  
 “ goodness had bestowed, and unac-  
 “ quainted with their wickedness they  
 “ sent by their hands, which they took  
 “ care to pocket, and return some made-  
 “ up answer, laughing and diverting  
 “ themselves with the cheats they prac-  
 “ tised upon those whose bread they eat.  
 “ As my husband was well known a-  
 “ mongst these sort of gentry, he soon  
 “ got a place with Lord L—, and  
 “ lived there till I was brought to bed ;  
 “ but being too fond of apeing the man-  
 “ ners of his master, he was discharged ;  
 “ as soon as I was well enough, we took a  
 “ little shop at the west end of the town,  
 “ and set up in the haberdashery busi-  
 “ ness ; as he had a great number of  
 “ acquaintance we did pretty well, and  
 “ at the year’s end had added another  
 “ hundred to my little fortune. I wrote  
 “ word of our increasing circumstances  
 “ to

“ to my father, who never failed answer-  
 “ ing our letters, and sending us pre-  
 “ sents.

“ Just at the birth of my second child,  
 “ the 'Squire, my husband's late master  
 “ died, and as he had no children, his  
 “ estate went to the heir at law, who was  
 “ a proud overbearing man, and a great  
 “ hunter; and as my father held his  
 “ farm under him, would turn the fox  
 “ loose upon his grounds, and in hunt-  
 “ ing it quite destroy the rising crop:  
 “ this greatly provoked my father, who  
 “ several times told the steward of it, but  
 “ could get no manner of recompence;  
 “ so one day meeting the 'Squire, he  
 “ asked him if he expected his rent at  
 “ the year's end, and being answered  
 “ he did, said, it would not be in his  
 “ power to pay him if he destroyed his  
 “ crops in the manner he had done.  
 “ The 'Squire was angry at my father's  
 “ speaking, called him some names,  
 “ which he resenting, he set his dog at  
 “ my

“ my father, who happening to have a  
 “ stick in his hand, with a stroke across  
 “ the head killed the animal, and enra-  
 “ ged at the 'Squire, who had struck  
 “ him, he beat him soundly and left  
 “ him, declaring he would shoot all the  
 “ dogs he had, if he brought them upon  
 “ his ground.

“ This quarrel was seen by some la-  
 “ bourers who were employed by the  
 “ great man, and they, for a few gui-  
 “ neas, swore he struck him first. My  
 “ poor father was served with an action,  
 “ and gold prevailing over conscience,  
 “ they swore falsely against him, and he  
 “ was cast, and obliged to pay great da-  
 “ mages, which, with the expence of  
 “ the law suit, was more than he was  
 “ worth, so his attorney arrested him,  
 “ and he died in a gaol, of a broken  
 “ heart.

“ I was a stranger to all these proceed-  
 “ ings till he was dead and buried, or I  
 “ would have sold every thing I had in  
 “ the



“ the world to have relieved him ; but  
 “ my sister, who was married to a repu-  
 “ table farmer in the neighbourhood of  
 “ C——, never let me know any thing  
 “ about it till it was all over. We kept  
 “ in business for four years, and I had  
 “ four children ; when my husband took  
 “ it into his head to go into a much lar-  
 “ ger way, and a shop being vacant in  
 “ St. James’s street, it cost us all we  
 “ were worth for good-will and fixtures,  
 “ and at the year’s end we were little or  
 “ nothing in pocket, for we were obliged  
 “ to keep a shop-woman and a servant,  
 “ with a porter to carry home goods, so  
 “ that all our profit was ran away with  
 “ by servants.

“ Here my husband became acquaint-  
 “ ed with some waiters, who belonged to  
 “ notorious gaming-houses in that street ;  
 “ and as they follow the example of the  
 “ great, they belong to clubs of a lower  
 “ class : to these he was introduced, and  
 “ soon initiated into their secrets, and  
 “ from

“ from a regular man, never absent from  
 “ his family, I seldom saw him at home  
 “ till two or three o’clock in the morn-  
 “ ing ; and on my complaining, he used  
 “ to say, that business required it, and  
 “ he spent his evenings amongst his cus-  
 “ tomers.

“ I was obliged to be satisfied with  
 “ this answer, but was very discontent in  
 “ my own mind. One day as I was at  
 “ work in my little parlour behind the  
 “ shop, two ill-looking fellows entered,  
 “ and inquiring if the person that kept  
 “ the house’s name was Wallford, came  
 “ directly into the parlour, and began to  
 “ take an inventory of the things. Al-  
 “ most stupified I inquired what they  
 “ wanted, when one of them informed  
 “ me he had an execution against our  
 “ property for five hundred pounds that  
 “ was owing to our lace merchant. I then  
 “ discovered that my husband, who had  
 “ received the money from me, had ta-  
 “ ken it to a gaming-table, and there lost  
 “ it.

“ it. This was no sooner known,  
 “ than all our creditors brought in their  
 “ accounts; and I, who knew not that  
 “ we owed one shilling more than we  
 “ could easily pay, found the different  
 “ debts amounted to near two thousand  
 “ pounds; and the creditors meeting,  
 “ issued a statute of bankruptcy, and  
 “ our goods and stock were sold by pub-  
 “ lic auction, leaving us little more than  
 “ the cloaths upon our backs. In this  
 “ situation we removed to a small ready-  
 “ furnished room, in a wretched house,  
 “ up a miserable alley, and it was with  
 “ great difficulty we got there, for as  
 “ we had four children, every place  
 “ where we went after lodgings, they  
 “ objected to let them on account of our  
 “ family.

“ My husband, who saw his error  
 “ when it was too late, was so affected  
 “ with our situation, that he fell sick and  
 “ kept his bed for near two months;  
 “ and our few cloaths being parted with,

“ we

“ we were nearly reduced to a morsel  
 “ of bread, when his sister the laundress,  
 “ in whose neighbourhood we lived,  
 “ brought a letter which had been left  
 “ at her house by a strange gentleman ;  
 “ it was directed to me, and enclosed  
 “ a ten pound bank-note, but who it  
 “ came from we were never able to tell,  
 “ as there was not a word wrote in the  
 “ inside that could lead to a discovery :  
 “ this cheered our drooping spirits, and  
 “ I got my husband’s cloaths, which  
 “ necessity had obliged us to part with,  
 “ and paying the few debts we had con-  
 “ tracted, I begged him to try and get  
 “ a place, and I would endeavour to  
 “ help to support our children ; and  
 “ cleaning myself I went to his sister,  
 “ and desired her to inquire among  
 “ the ladies maids that came to her  
 “ house, and recommend me some  
 “ needle-work ; this she promised to do,  
 “ and in the course of a week, I had  
 “ several jobbs that brought me in a  
 “ trifle



“ trifle towards maintaining us ; but my  
 “ husband was unsuccessful in his appli-  
 “ cations of getting a place ; however,  
 “ my industry supplied our wants, and  
 “ we kept the wolf from the door near  
 “ twelve months ; when, all of a sudden,  
 “ the countenance of my husband grew  
 “ gloomy and dejected, and he fre-  
 “ quently staid out for two or three  
 “ days at a time, and on his return home  
 “ he would retire sullenly to bed, nor  
 “ could all my entreaties draw him to  
 “ explain the cause of his sorrow ; but  
 “ one day returning from carrying home  
 “ some work, I found all my children  
 “ sitting at the street-door, and chiding  
 “ them for it, the eldest told me their  
 “ father had come home and turned them  
 “ out of the room ; alarmed at this, I  
 “ went up stairs, and knocking several  
 “ times received no answer, when the  
 “ man of the house thinking something  
 “ was the matter, came up and burst it  
 “ open.—Shocking to relate, I saw my  
 “ husband

“ husband hanging; overcome with hor-  
 “ror, I fell senseless on the floor, and  
 “ for four days in a state little short of  
 “ madness; when the cries and entrea-  
 “ ties of my children brought me to rea-  
 “ son, and I wished to live for their sakes.  
 “ When I was informed the coroner’s in-  
 “ quest had sat upon my husband’s body,  
 “ and brought in their verdict lunacy;  
 “ this gave me some little ease, for the  
 “ thoughts of his being buried in a cross-  
 “ road, fixed a dagger in my heart  
 “ that all my reason could not remove;  
 “ for though he had been guilty of  
 “ errors, he was my husband, and I ten-  
 “ derly loved him.

“ I then wrote to my mother, who  
 “ was still living with the sister I have  
 “ before-mentioned, and she sent me  
 “ all that lay in her power, five guineas,  
 “ this, with some presents I had made  
 “ me, buried him decently; and weak  
 “ as I was, I set to work again, and  
 “ had more employment than ever, with  
 “ which

“ which I supported my children pretty  
 “ decently. I often used to wonder  
 “ what could be the cause of my hus-  
 “ band’s committing such a rash action,  
 “ when one day looking over some  
 “ papers, I found a little bundle direct-  
 “ ed to me, and opening, I saw it was  
 “ my husband’s hand-writing, but as I  
 “ have preserved them, you shall read  
 “ them yourself, so taking them out of  
 “ her pocket, she gave them to me.  
 “ I have wrote the contents down,  
 “ and as they are rather singular, you  
 “ shall read them.”

So saying, Father Reeve took them from  
 his pocket, and putting them in her hand,  
 said with a smile, that nothing should be  
 wanting on his part to free her from  
 the prison, and desiring her to be cautious  
 of mentioning their former acquaintance  
 to the old nun, promised to visit her early  
 the next day.

He had not been gone long when the  
 old nun waited upon Maria, and with a  
 pleasant countenance said, she was glad

to

to hear of her reformation, which Father Reeves had declared to them he had gained; telling her the nuns of St. N——s had sent her a crucifix, and she was come to conduct her to a better apartment, which Father Reeves had desired the keeper of the prison to provide for her. She was now led to a small room, in which was a decent bed and a fire, and two candles burning; they were hardly seated when the keeper, with the obsequiousness of a servant, waited upon them with tea; after he had withdrawn, the old woman informed Maria, that she belonged to the convent of N——s, and that the gentleman who was the occasion of her confinement, had sold his estate in England and retired into France, had abjured his religion, had purchased an estate, and lived in the neighbourhood with his family. Amazed at this piece of news, Maria could not help expressing her surprise. “Aye,” cried the old woman, “he is very



“ anxious for your conversion ; and as  
 “ he says you have a large fortune,  
 “ what an opportunity have you of ren-  
 “ dering your name immortal, and re-  
 “ tiring willingly to our convent, where  
 “ your fortune will soon gain you a  
 “ superior respect amongst the sisters ;  
 “ and if you leave it to the convent after  
 “ your death, you will be enrolled in  
 “ the calendar of saints ; and Father  
 “ Reeves has told us, that he has no  
 “ doubt but he shall fully convince you  
 “ of the necessity of it. As for me,”  
 she continued, “ I got permission to  
 “ visit you ; but this I tell you, whether  
 “ you will heartily embrace the true  
 “ religion or no, you will never regain  
 “ your liberty again.

Maria now found that the good Father  
 had employed his interest to gain her  
 a more comfortable situation, and had  
 reported that she was willing to renounce  
 her religion ; this caused a visit from the  
 old

old nun, who had orders to sleep with, and stay with her as a companion.

They passed three days very agreeably together; and Maria not contradicting any of her arguments, nor asking her any questions about the place she was confined in, Margarita, for that was her name, was quite elated with joy, and told a long story of the many miracles that had been performed by the nuns of their convent, many of whom, she said, had been inspired. On the evening of the fourth day they were visited by Father Reeves, his countenance was much dejected, and after some trifling conversation, the nun left them, when he proceeded to inform Maria that all he could obtain was, permission for her to walk in the garden, begging her not to shew the least regret at any orders of the gaoler, and by all means, strive to improve the good opinion of the nun, who would soon be recalled to the convent, as Greaves had altered his mind, and

she was to be confined in the castle during her life. Maria shed tears at this information, and thanking the good Father for his kind advice, assured him she would follow it. Father Reeves advised her to be cheerful before her companion ; and the old woman coming, attended by the gaoler, a stop was put to any farther conversation, and she returned him the copies of Mrs. Wallford's papers, which were as follows :

“ MY dear wife, be not unhappy at  
 “ the death of such a wretch as I am ; I  
 “ am not fit to live. Full of sins,—sins  
 “ that can never be forgiven—I have  
 “ forfeited Heaven.—The hour of my  
 “ birth was cursed, and I have no hope  
 “ left.—I have constantly attended Mr.  
 “ W——’s chapel, but the more I in-  
 “ quired into the state of my soul, the  
 “ more I am convinced, that I cannot  
 “ inherit eternal life. O ! what would I  
 “ give for a call to grace.—In vain have  
 “ I walked

“ I walked in the park night after night,  
 “ and prayed without ceasing.—No re-  
 “ mission for me—I am doomed to  
 “ eternal misery.—God will protect you,  
 “ my dear, and our children.—Go to Mr.  
 “ W—’s chapel, for there you will hear  
 “ the word of God pure and unadultera-  
 “ ted.—God bless you.—We shall never  
 “ see each other more here nor here-  
 “ after.”

There were several others, but as they  
 were repetitions of the same subject, we  
 will omit them, and return to the his-  
 tory of Mrs. Wallford :—“ The poor  
 “ woman,” continued Father Reeves,  
 “ informed me, that by the dint of in-  
 “ dustry, she provided for her children,  
 “ and kept them to school for near two  
 “ years, when one day she had sent her  
 “ eldest boy home with some laced  
 “ ruffles, as he was going through  
 “ a street a villain pushed the child  
 “ down, and snatching the band-box



“ from him, ran away with it : I was  
 “ almost distracted, said the poor crea-  
 “ ture, at this loss, which the lady whom  
 “ they belonged to then valued at ten  
 “ pounds, and as I was unable to pay  
 “ it, arrested me and sent me to prison,  
 “ where I remained near twelve months  
 “ in misery not to be described, and  
 “ which I could never have endured, had  
 “ I not been a mother. We were chief-  
 “ ly supported by the poor-box, and  
 “ I worked plain-work for some priso-  
 “ ners who could afford to put it out ;  
 “ when one day I was surprised by one  
 “ of the door-keepers, who brought me  
 “ a letter, and told me a gentleman had  
 “ called and paid the debt and costs,  
 “ and I was at liberty to go where I  
 “ pleased. I thought, said she, the man  
 “ was joking, till looking at the direc-  
 “ tion, I found it the same hand-wri-  
 “ ting of the person that had so chari-  
 “ tably and nobly relieved me before ;  
 “ I tore it open, and found another ten  
 “ pound

“ pound bank-note, with this humane  
 “ and generous line, ‘ God blefs you,  
 “ and deliver you from your troubles—  
 “ put this trifle to the best use you can.’  
 “ This unexpected turn of fortune al-  
 “ most deprived me of my senses ; I ran  
 “ from one end of the room to the  
 “ other, laughed, cried, and kissed my  
 “ children, without knowing what I did,  
 “ till the man put me into a chair, and  
 “ there held me till I became more  
 “ composed. I now left my children to  
 “ the care of a poor widow, who was  
 “ my fellow prisoner, and went imme-  
 “ diately to procure a lodging, as I inten-  
 “ ded to get work as I formerly had done.  
 “ I took a small back-room in the house  
 “ I had lodged in before : I had been  
 “ there near three months, and had got  
 “ some part of my business again, when  
 “ two of my elder children sickened of  
 “ the small-pox, and in the course of  
 “ the week following, the two youngest  
 “ fell ill of the same disorder ; the grief

“ for what they suffered made me unable  
 “ to attend to my work; and I was  
 “ obliged to have a nurse to help me,  
 “ which ran away with all the little re-  
 “ mains of the ten pounds which I had  
 “ saved after I had cloathed them. At  
 “ last God took the youngest, and the  
 “ other three got better; but I was so  
 “ weakened with watching them by night,  
 “ and working all day, that I fell ill of  
 “ a fever, and was confined to my room  
 “ for three weeks, during which time  
 “ we had hardly any bread to eat.

“ When I was just able to walk I re-  
 “ ceived a letter from my sister, informing  
 “ me of the death of an aunt who had left  
 “ me a small cottage and all the furni-  
 “ ture, with twenty pounds in money.  
 “ This cheered my spirits, and I shewed  
 “ the contents to the woman in whose  
 “ house I lodged; she being assured of  
 “ the truth, lent me two guineas to carry  
 “ me home: and as my little cot is  
 “ situated in the midst of a village, I  
 “ mean

“ mean to furnish a small shop in the  
 “ haberdashery line ; as my dear father  
 “ was well respected, I have not the  
 “ least doubt of doing well.” Here Mrs.  
 Wallford ended her story, only ad-  
 ding, “ as her slender finances would  
 “ not pay her and the children’s carriage  
 “ down into Lancashire, she meant to  
 “ walk.”

“ I was much affected,” continued  
 Father Reeves, “ with the story of this  
 “ poor woman, who told it with a shower  
 “ of tears ; and as the two youngest  
 “ children began to grow tired, I helped  
 “ her to carry them. In this manner  
 “ we travelled for several days, and as  
 “ I told her my story without disguise, she  
 “ insisted I should share of her provision,  
 “ and generously paid for my lodging :  
 “ we were near a fortnight before we  
 “ arrived at the village, where we were  
 “ heartily welcomed by some of her  
 “ relations ; and she insisted upon my  
 “ staying with her three days, and tell-



“ ing them as much of my story as she  
 “ thought proper, her friends collected  
 “ a couple of guineas for me to assist  
 “ me in getting home ; so taking leave  
 “ of Mrs. Wallford, and the rest of my  
 “ friends, I left C——o, and continued  
 “ my journey. To avoid being no-  
 “ ticed, as (bills were stuck up in every  
 “ part of the kingdom, offering rewards  
 “ for the apprehension of priests) I slept  
 “ in barns. One night I came to a  
 “ small alehouse that stood by the side  
 “ of a common, and inquiring if there  
 “ was any farm-house near, was answer-  
 “ ed there was not one within two miles  
 “ of that place. Being much fatigued,  
 “ I thought there could not be any dan-  
 “ ger of resting myself in such a mise-  
 “ rable hut as that was, so I took up my  
 “ abode there for that night in a wretch-  
 “ ed room, in which there were two  
 “ beds ; I slept soundly, and did not  
 “ wake till late in the morning, when  
 “ putting on my cloaths, I found every  
 “ farthing

“ farthing of my money gone ; almost  
 “ dead with grief, I called up the land-  
 “ lord of the house, and with tears in  
 “ my eyes, told him I had been rob-  
 “ bed ; What had you to lose ? cried he,  
 bursting into a loud laugh, “ I told him  
 “ whoever had taken my money had  
 “ not left me sufficient to pay for my  
 “ lodging ; ‘ You lie, replied the inhu-  
 “ man brute, you have patched up this  
 “ story on purpose to cheat me out of a  
 “ night’s lodging ;’ so laying hold of  
 “ my arm, he pushed me out of the  
 “ room, and threatened to call some of  
 “ his friends that should half murder me,  
 “ if I did not go about my business,  
 “ saying, it was enough to defraud  
 “ him, without scandalizing his house.  
 “ Though I plainly saw that this rogue  
 “ of a host was in confederacy with the  
 “ villains that robbed me, and in all  
 “ probability had assisted them, yet I  
 “ had it not in my power to seek any  
 “ redress, so I walked away with a heavy  
 M 6 “ heart,

“ heart, and travelled some miles with-  
 “ out breaking my fast. But that God  
 “ who provides for the meanest insect,  
 “ will not forsake his own image ; for  
 “ being wearied out I sat down upon a  
 “ a bank, and looking before me saw  
 “ something glitter in the sun, and  
 “ and going hastily to the spot, found it  
 “ to be half-a-crown : had the wealth  
 “ of the Indies have lain before me, I  
 “ could not have felt greater joy than  
 “ being in the possession of this trifle ;  
 “ it re-animated my sinking spirits, and  
 “ I set forward on my journey, wishing  
 “ to get to a house in which I might  
 “ get a little refreshment. This sum  
 “ bore my expences near a week, and  
 “ it was reduced to my last two-pence  
 “ when you, Madam, alighted at the  
 “ inn. I saw so much goodness in your  
 “ countenance, that I was emboldened  
 “ to solicit your benevolence, and the  
 “ noble manner of your giving me the  
 “ ten pounds, astonished me to such a  
 “ degree,

“ degree, that for the moment, it de-  
“ prived me of the power to return  
“ thanks; and your sudden departure  
“ made me curious to know who was  
“ my benefactress.—I followed your car-  
“ riage, as I have before related. The  
“ present you had given me enabled  
“ me to return to my country without  
“ farther difficulty; where I have at  
“ different times offered up prayers for  
“ your welfare.”

CHAP.



## CHAP. XIV.

THE garden, which was nothing more than a large plat of grafs, laid at the back of the caſtle, was incloſed by a high ſtone wall, and entirely ſurrounded by a wide moat; on the left ſtood a chain of high mountains, whoſe tops were inhabitants of the clouds; and ſeveral miſerable huts formed a ſmall village in the green vale at the bottom. In this plat ſhe was permitted to walk about two hours in the morning, but there being no trees to ſhelter her from the rays of the ſun, which, as the ſpring was far advanced, was beginning to be extremely powerful, ſhe therefore, ſolicited Father Reeves to gain her the permiſſion of walking in the cool of the evening, which he

he got easily granted ; and as none of the other prisoners were permitted to walk when she did, the nun and the gaoler often accompanied her.

About the middle of summer the old nun was recalled back to her convent ; all Maria's sorrows assailed her at this parting ; and though Margarita's feelings were never disturbed but when she considered that it was impossible to extirpate the whole race of Heretics, yet the distress of Maria touched her flinty heart, and the unwilling tear forced its way down her furrowed cheeks, and kissing Maria, she assured her, that if it was possible to gain permission, she would see her again. The night was spent in tears by Maria, ten thousand gloomy ideas filled her mind, and she gave way to the most poignant anguish till the break of day, when the beams of the sun darted faint rays through the iron bars that grated the window, which was a hole about a yard square each way, and  
the

the top of it even with the cieling; weary with laying the rose up in her bed, and looking round her saw the following inscription on the white wall at the head of the bed: "Never despair, " Oh mortal, whoever you are that inherit this dismal cell, be not dismayed, " but put trust in the great Director " and Creator of worlds. I know I shall " be murdered this night, yet I will not " give way to despair, being well " assured, that I shall inherit eternal life, " and in giving me death, they give " me victory.—Claudio de —."

This seemed to have been scratched upon the wall with a skewer; it was wrote uneven, and almost hid behind one of the bed-posts, which were nearly as thick as pillars.

Though Maria shuddered at the thoughts of being in the hands of murderers, yet this inscription seemed to be wrote with a firmness of mind equal to  
that

that of Socrates, and brought fresh to her mind the advice of Mr. Hillyard, which now seemed prophetic of the misfortunes that had since befallen her; she lay down, and resting her head upon the pillow, musing upon the inscription, till nature overcome with weariness, she fell into a gentle slumber.

When the mind that is burthened with sorrow, is absorbed in the first state of death, the soul struggles with the grosser particles and keeps memory awake; and the body lost to pains it suffers, has a faint recollection of what passes in the breast, and the confused ideas of the brain still keeping its worldly track, imperfect visionary beings present themselves.

So it was with Maria, whose troubled fancy represented to her the unfortunate Claudio, whose inscription she had lately read; he was covered with wounds, and the crimson gore had dyed the white shirt he seemed to wear; he led her  
through



through all the dungeons of the castle, till they came to the garden, where the river divided, and they walking over, in a few moments was in a large plain surrounded by numbers of people, who had each long scrolls of paper in their hands, and seemed very anxious to get admittance into a spacious temple that stood in the middle of it; but upon telling their tale to the officers that attended the door, numbers were pushed back; at last they arrived at the temple, and Claudio giving Maria a scroll, she, by his direction, presented it to the keeper, who on perusing it, immediately admitted them; they now entered a large marble hall, where many were waiting to gain an audience of the Goddess, at last it came to their turn, and the doors flew open, and they entered: in the middle was a flight of steps that led up to a throne in which the Goddess was seated, supported by Liberty on her right side, and Plenty on her left, Innocence

nocence and Truth supported the balance in the front, whilst Religion and Mercy were her constant attendants; six angelic forms that represented virgins, stood arranged on each side; in her hand she held a map of the habitable world, which was made of stones of inestimable value, and reflected rays equal to those of the sun; the walls of the temple, which seemed to the outside beholders to be solid marble, appeared quite transparent, so that Justice from her throne could behold whatever was done by the busy crowd that were on the outside; though transgressing mortals thought they were secure from her all-piercing eyes.

Maria was led to the foot of the throne by one of the attendants, and offering her petition, the Goddess received it, and looking over it waved her sceptre, when loud claps of thunder instantly shook the temple, and a thick wood rose in the place, in which she fancied she was benighted, and could not find  
her

her way out of it, and was wandering in great distress.

When she was awakened by the keeper, who called to let her know Father Reeves was waiting to breakfast with her. She rose immediately, much wearied with the fatigue her mind had undergone, and putting on her cloaths, Father Reeves entered accompanied by the gaoler who, after paying some compliments to Maria, left them. After some preliminary discourse, the good priest informed her, that it was only the want of money that kept him from delivering her from her unjust confinement; but as he had very little, and not the means of raising any, he was at a loss how to act. Maria now proposed his leaving the monastery secretly, and going to England, where he would find her friends ready to assist him with any sum he wanted; but Father Reeves assured her, that though her friends knew the place of her confinement, they would never be able

able to deliver her, but the affair would terminate in a manner that was too often practised in those places, death ; “ as for “ me,” he continued, “ I must take my “ everlasting farewell of this country, “ and trust to Providence in some other, “ for the suspicion will justly fall on “ me, and to avoid their cruelty, I must “ abdicate it for ever ; all which I “ would do with pleasure, could I but “ find the means of releasing you.”

Maria thanked him with tears of gratitude, and untwisting her hair took her ring, which she presented to Father Reeves, telling him she made not the least doubt but he could raise a sufficient sum. He then informed her, that in a valley about a mile distant from them, was a large lake, on the borders of which were several huts inhabited by poor fishermen, who served the monks of their monastery with fish ; invited by their rural situation, he often visited their huts, and one day found one of the

poor



families in tears, which at his appearance they strove to restrain, but after many assurances of his friendship and secrecy, they related to him as follows :

“ The poor fisherman had a brother  
 “ that lived valet with a nobleman of  
 “ distinction, who had obtained the  
 “ king’s permission to visit England,  
 “ and at his return spoke too freely concerning  
 “ some affairs of state, and too  
 “ frequently expressed his approbation  
 “ of the English constitution ; and as a  
 “ reigning despot is ever terrified at shadows,  
 “ well knowing the fancied laurels  
 “ of servile flattery are only outward  
 “ appearance of a set of miserable caterpillars,  
 “ who are bought over to praise  
 “ oppression and justify wickedness,  
 “ because greatness dazzles their eyes,  
 “ and the idea of royalty corrupts their  
 “ understanding.—But to return to my  
 “ story,” said Father Reeves, “ this  
 “ nobleman was offended at a kept  
 “ mistress of the king’s ruling, or rather  
 “ destroy-

“ destroying a great nation, and not  
 “ paying her that deference that the  
 “ princes of the blood were obliged to,  
 “ he was, by her machinations, accused  
 “ of holding a correspondence with  
 “ some English noblemen, and one  
 “ night torn from his family, and car-  
 “ ried to the Bastile, from whence he  
 “ never returned. As this unfortunate  
 “ gentleman knew his life would be  
 “ sacrificed to satiate the pride and re-  
 “ venge of an infamous woman, he re-  
 “ solved to make his escape from the  
 “ officers of the Police, and drawing his  
 “ sword, assisted by his trusty valet, he  
 “ fought for some moments, and wounded  
 “ several, till overpowered by numbers,  
 “ the master was carried to the Bastile, and  
 “ his servant to this castle, where it was  
 “ supposed he was murdered, as upon  
 “ inquiry, his friends were informed he  
 “ died suddenly; and in remembrance  
 “ of his misfortunes, they kept the day  
 “ that

“ that he was sent to the castle in tears  
 “ and lamentations, offering up prayers  
 “ for the repose of his soul. Three  
 “ days ago,” continued Father Reeves,  
 “ I visited these poor people, and found  
 “ them, according to their annual cus-  
 “ tom, pouring forth their supplications  
 “ and tears, and drew from them, as  
 “ before related, the cause of their grief,  
 “ and knowing the honesty of the man,  
 “ in return related your history, which  
 “ called forth their tears afresh ; seeing  
 “ how much they were affected by your  
 “ sufferings, I ventured to sound them  
 “ concerning your deliverance, to which  
 “ the man readily agreed, provided  
 “ it could be done without any assis-  
 “ tance but him and myself : to this  
 “ reasonable request I instantly con-  
 “ sented, and promised to give him a  
 “ handsome present for his willingness  
 “ and secrecy. I wrote to several  
 “ friends I have in Paris for the loan  
 “ of an hundred louis d’ors, a sum  
 which

“ which I flattered myself I could easily  
 “ raise, but was too sanguine in my  
 “ expectations, for one wondered what  
 “ I could want such a sum of money  
 “ for, nevertheless, he would willingly  
 “ oblige me, but really had it not in  
 “ his power; another had just made a  
 “ large payment; and, in short,” con-  
 tinued Father Reeves, “ every one of  
 “ them found out some excuse to avoid  
 “ doing an act of friendship. But I  
 “ know not one that I dare entrust with  
 “ this ring, so our scheme must be de-  
 “ ferred for a few days, till I can dis-  
 “ pose of the ring, then I shall visit you,  
 “ and bring farther instructions.”

We will now leave Maria and Father  
 Reeves for a short time, and return to  
 her friends in England.



## C H A P. XV.

**M**R. Hillyard, who had left no means untried to discover the people who had forced her away, could not obtain the least intelligence; the different papers were filled with advertisements, describing the person of Mrs. Godfrey, and offering great rewards for her apprehension; but no information could be gained concerning her. Greaves now appeared publicly, and as the greatest part of his fortune was in the funds, he was busily employed in selling out, while Mrs. Greaves and her family left England; but to what part of the Continent they were gone was a profound secret.

Mr. Hillyard now applied to Miss Brooks's counsel, to have the person of Greaves secured; but he had spies in  
every

every corner, who gave him information, and he quickly disappeared.

In this distressed situation was Mr. Hillyard and Mrs. Linton, when Mrs. Brooks of the Manor House arrived in London. She had recently buried her husband, who, like his father, died suddenly, and without making any will; and as there were no male heirs left to inherit the estate, whoever married his daughter was to take the name, and bear the arms of the family.

Mrs. Brooks, who had often wished to renew her intimacy with Maria, had wrote several letters to White Hall, which were constantly transmitted to Mr. Hillyard, who was too much perplexed in his mind to return immediate answers, though he intended it, and in the hurry of affairs they were thrown by, and forgot. Mrs. Brooks was much hurt at what she thought neglect, yet friendship gained the ascendancy. She resolved to visit White Hall early in the ensuing spring, and was

N 2

preparing

preparing for her journey, when the arrival of a maiden lady, a distant relation of her father's, made her defer it.

As the London newspapers are a *valuable* present to a family that does not visit the metropolis, Miss Jackson had been hoarding them near twelve months before she visited Mrs. Brooks, as a present for her mother, who received them with great pleasure; and for fear her little grand-daughter should tear them, very carefully locked them up; but, one morning, finding what she called an astonishing audacious robbery, she brought the paper down to entertain her daughter and Miss Jackson with it, and after reading, and commenting upon it near half an hour, laid it down upon the table, when Mrs. Brooks happening to look at it, saw an advertisement describing the person of Maria, and the manner it was supposed she had been forced away. This entirely protracted her journey to Whiteall, and the affairs of her  
late

late husband requiring her attendance in London, she set off for that place, leaving her mother and Miss Jackson in care of the Manor House.

She was just returning home, when she received a letter from a lawyer, who demanded three hundred pounds, that, he said, had been due to him near twelve months. Amazed at this strange request, Mrs. Brooks demanded Mr. Hillyard to accompany her to the lawyer's chambers, declaring he was an entire stranger to her. They set out for the Temple, where they found Eitherside, who seemed much surprized at Mrs. Brooks's bringing Mr. Hillyard with her; and, after some hesitation, begged her attendance in another room: and in a long prefatory discourse, wherein he set forth his esteem for her deceased husband, assured Mrs. Brooks he would continue it to her on the same conditions; adding, he hoped she had brought the money with her, as he was in immediate want of it.



Mrs. Brooks thanked Mr. Eitherfide for his professions of friendship, saying, she was willing to pay any just debt Mr. Brooks had contracted ; but, as she never heard him mention his name, she wished to be informed by what means he became his creditor. “ Not know that ! ” interrupted this *honest man*. “ Well, “ Madam, I’ll soon inform you.” So saying, he opened a drawer, and taking out a bundle of parchment, cried, “ these “ will let you know that you are indebted to my secrecy for half your estate ; ” and without giving her time to reply, informed her, that those writings were the original belonging to the estate of the Manor House ; they had fallen into his possession by the death of a client, to whose daughter he had been left guardian.

These writings had been lost in the civil wars of Charles the First, as the heir to that estate had been obliged to leave the kingdom after the fatal battle of

— — ;

—; but some time after the Restoration it was restored to its ancient owners, who, having several sons, and from a wish to perpetuate a name, famous for loyalty, he had the entail made out to the heirs male of his family, bearing the name, which was very different from the former, where the greatest part went to the heirs general; and as it had gone in the right succession till it came into the possession of her husband's father, he did not doubt but she would see the propriety of continuing him the annuity of three hundred pounds a-year.

Mrs. Brooks thanked Mr. Either-side for his information; but assured him it was not her intention it should remain a secret any longer, as she was determined to give up the estate to Miss Brooks, as soon as Providence restored her to her friends; and calling in Mr. Hillyard, related to him by what means she became the debtor of Mr. Either-side, assuring him she should not discharge it; but

if he would give up the writings for Miss Brooks, she would make him a present of one hundred pounds, which she thought quite sufficient for his *honesty*; and the lawyer, finding he could make no better bargain, delivered them to Mr. Hillyard, who carried them away, exclaiming against the whole tribe.

This man had got possession of them much about the time Mrs. Brooks' father-in-law died, and willing to make the most of them, took a journey into Lincolnshire: and searching the different registers, found Maria was heir to the Castle, (the ancient seat of the family) and the greatest part of the domain belonging to it. At first he had a fancy to pay her a visit; but a lawyer's imagination is always at work for his own interest, and he instantly recollected, that what was the young lady's right would not be so well paid for by her, as the person who did inherit it *honestly*; arguing, that if the present possessor did not come to his terms,

terms, the owner could but have it afterwards; and resolving at least to secure a comfortable annuity, he wrote to the Manor House, requesting a private interview, on business of the greatest importance, appointing the afternoon of the ensuing day, when Mr. Either-side, in as long an harangue as a counsellor can make when he receives a hundred guineas for stunning a court, and stupifying a jury, he informed Mr. Brooks what papers he had in his possession, adding, he had heard that the lady to whom they belonged was very rich, and a distant relation of his; begging him to use his interest with her, to make him a present adequate to what they would put her in possession of.

Brooks, who was almost speechless at this account, replied, he had laid out a large sum of money in draining the moor that belonged to the Castle, and turned a great part of it into corn land; saying, he ought at least to enjoy it till he had



recovered the expences it had cost him.  
 “ —As for that,” interrupted Eitherfide,  
 “ three hundred a year is but a trifle to a  
 “ gentleman of your fortune, and it shall  
 “ remain an inviolable secret.”—This  
 was immediately acceded to by Brooks ;  
 but the wary lawyer kept the writings,  
 as the best security for payment.

As this happened some time after the  
 death of Louisa, Maria, as we have be-  
 fore related, visited the Parsonage, and  
 was at that time at the Manor House,  
 when Brooks, fearful of the *honest* Mr.  
 Eitherfide, who still remained in the  
 neighbourhood, insisted upon his wife’s  
 discontinuing all correspondence with  
 her when she quitted White Hall.

## CHAP. XVI.

**N**EAR a month had elapsed before Father Reeves repeated his visits to the Castle, when he informed Maria he had disposed of her ring for a much greater sum than he had occasion for, and which would serve to defray their travelling expences till they reached England; and giving her a small phial of liquid, said, he should drink tea with her the following evening, and bring the keeper with him; that she must watch an opportunity of infusing some of it in his tea, which would not take any effect for a couple of hours, at which time she would be walking in the garden, where a person would be ready to assist her in escaping. This being settled, he took his leave of her, offering up his prayers for the success of their project.

Early the next afternoon Father Reeves came, attended by the keeper, who was a great zealot. He instantly began to discourse on religion; and as Father Reeves had persuaded him that Maria had become a sincere convert, he paid her many compliments; when, till Father Reeves produced a small crucifix, which he had in his pocket, pretending it was of great antiquity, and had worked several miracles; and while the keeper was attentively examining it, Maria emptied the contents of the phial into his cup. After staying some time, Father Reeves took his leave, and Maria went to take her evening's walk in the garden. She had been there a considerable time, when at last a voice called to her from the wall, and, without giving time for a reply, let down a ladder of ropes, desiring her to ascend immediately. Which done, they crossed the mote in a small boat which Father Reeves had provided; when the good Priest giving her a purse, with a  
written

written direction, bade her hasten to the wood, and there read it.

This place was three miles distant, which she reached in the dusk of the evening ; but being too dark to read her instructions, she directed her course towards the thickest part of it, and had penetrated near two miles, when growing extremely weary, and seeing a tuft of bushes, resolved to seat herself there, till the dawn would enable her to resume her journey. She sat quietly till midnight, when she was alarmed by the trampling of horses ; and, rising up, she saw several lights, and heard the voices of several men at a distance.

Ready to expire through fear, she crept again beneath the bushes, which were remarkably thick ; and, fearful of breathing, laid some moments, when she distinguished the voice of the keeper cursing Father Reeves and herself, swearing that nothing but their deaths should satisfy him ; and was invoking the Deity to assist



sist him in his search, when a loud clap of thunder shook the forest. The keeper and his attendants took shelter beneath a large spreading tree, which, attracting the lightning, struck one of the fellows to the ground: the rest flew to their horses, in the greatest consternation, and rode back to the prison.

The storm continued with unabating violence till break of day, when the sun rising from beneath the heavy clouds, she arose cautiously, and, looking round her, saw the dead body at some distance, almost covered with branches, which the violence of the storm had stripped from the trees. Maria turned her eyes from this shocking sight, and looking over the instructions Father Reeves gave her, found she was directed to a cottage on the borders of the wood, about seven miles distant; but being afraid of keeping the path, and not venturing to inquire, or be seen by any person, she wandered some miles out of her way, and

was returning back, when she saw a young girl crossing a brook, and resolved to follow her at a distance, which she did, till she entered a small cottage buried in the wood; and, looking over her instructions, found it was the place that she was directed to. She went up to the door, which was immediately opened by the good Father Reeves himself, whose joy was extreme on seeing her.

Maria now gave him an account of her night's adventure in the wood, and Father Reeves told her he would have attended her to the cottage, but he was obliged to help the poor fisherman to take his boat back to a distant part of the lake, from whence they brought it the preceding night. This done, he gave him fifty louis d'ors, and advising him to be cautious in displaying it before his poor neighbours, and, taking leave of him, set off for the cottage, which he reached early next morning, where he waited with great anxiety. This place  
was

was the abode of a poor peasant, who was gardener to the Count de Velsain, and, being a faithful servant, this small hut was the reward of many years service. It was built on a spot that had formerly been a hermitage, and the cave kept by the gardener as a cool repository for his fruit in summer : and as it had a subterraneous passage from the cottage, it was fixed upon as a retreat for Maria, till an opportunity offered of their getting safe to Boulogne, which was about forty miles distant. The gardener had an only daughter, named Lucilla, a fine lively girl, about eighteen ; and, as her mother was an Englishwoman, she was much attached to the natives of that country. She was the constant companion of Maria for three weeks, till Greaves's emissaries, who had searched that part of the country, had given over all farther pursuit.

Father Reeves now prepared for their journey, and disguising themselves as peasants,

peasants, attended by Lucilla, within a few days they reached Boulogne, from whence Maria wrote to her friends, and rewarding Lucilla for her secrecy and kindness, Father Reeves and Maria embarked for England, and, on their arrival, found Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Hillyard, and Mrs. Linton, who received Maria with tears of joy, and expressions of love and friendship for the good Father Reeves. In their way home they did not forget to visit Mrs. Wallford, whose story had raised a great curiosity in Mr. Hillyard; and upon her shewing them the letter she had received when in prison, they discovered it to be the hand-writing of the deceased Parson Ellis.

On their arrival at White Hall, Mrs. Brooks acquainted Maria with the acquisition to her fortune, by the writings they had obtained from Mr. Eitherfide; but she insisted upon her accepting them for her daughter; saying, as she was the heir to that estate, she would not deprive her

her



her of any part of it. As for father Reeves he, at Maria's desire, took up his abode at White Hall, where he lived many years a pattern of virtue and goodness.

Thus, seeing things of this world as they really were, their days rolled on in unalterable happiness, and in those unspeakable pleasures that always are the portion of the good.

F I N I S.



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